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16 April 1985

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AUSTRALIA

PAPERS CRITICIZE HAWKE ON MX REVERSE

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 6 Feb 85 p 7

[Text]

SYDNEY, Feb 6. — Prime Minister Bob Hawke's apparent decision to reverse his initial support of Australian involvement in MX missile tests was attacked in today's newspaper editorials.

The "Sydney Morning Herald" said Australia's co-operation would have been "a bilateral courtesy" to our major ally and "perfectly consistent" with the Government's adherence to the strategy of deterrence.

The "Australian" joined in the criticism, saying if the Prime Minister renege on the country's arrangement with the US on the missile tests he could find his stature tarnished.

If the Labour Party came out of the present argument leaving Australians convinced that it would leave the country defenceless, it could rule itself out of office for years into the future, the paper said.

Agrees

The Melbourne "Age" said the Prime Minister and his Government could not reverse the decision to help the US monitor the MX tests without imperilling Australia's credibility and reliability as an ally.

Federal Opposition leader Andrew Peacock backed comments by Foreign Minister Bill Hayden and Australia's involvement with the MX missile tests against any backdown by Mr Hawke.

Mr Peacock said he agreed with Mr Hayden's comments yesterday that Australia was neither unaligned, neutral, nor pacifist.

He said that although the development of first-strike nuclear weapons was not something to be welcomed on its own, it had allowed the United States to approach the Soviets about arms reduction from a position of strength.

Both Mr Peacock and Opposition Defence spokesman Ian Sinclair also said they supported the Labour Government's insistence that the splashdown site for the MX tests be moved out of Australia's economic zone and into international waters.

Testing of the MX missile by the United States had been deferred, said Queensland Labour Senator Gerry Jones.

He said he had been told by Australian Defence Minister Kim Beazley that no firm date had now been set for the South Pacific tests.

Senator Jones said he had also been told that

Richmond near Sydney had been decided on as a possible airfield for refuelling purposes during the tests.

He added: "Although the tests have been postponed, the Australian Government should give no assistance whatsoever to the project."

Mr Hawke's qualification of support for assistance in the MX tests is being interpreted in influential Labour Party circles as an indication that some dramatic compromise will be reached in Washington.

In the wake of Mr Hawke's remarks in Brussels, faction leaders in Australia today toned down their strident criticism of the Government's decision.

It is increasingly felt that Mr Hawke will emerge from the Washington talks with a radical solution to the dilemma.

Party sources speculated today that this would have to involve the shifting of the tests to Guam, the US territory in the Pacific, rather than international waters off Tasmania.

Mr Hawke said in Brussels that he understood "the very considerable" feelings in Australia about the issue and would take them into account in his Washington talks later this week.

"Very considerable" is almost understating the reaction from all party factions and other groups outside the party over the past few days.

Leaders of Labour's Left Wing were planning a further Australia-wide telephone hook-up tonight to reassess their tactics on the issue and to consider Mr Hawke's mollifying comments in Brussels.

The Left remain supremely confident that they can muster the caucus numbers to reverse the decision should that become necessary.

Defence analysts told AAP that the US had already laid sensors near Guam, capable of monitoring the tests, although on a shorter flight path.

A possibility raised by one party source today was that the US might use an

aircraft carrier to monitor the tests or employ AWAC planes from Clark Air Base in the Philippines together with KC 135 refuelling planes.

But even if Mr Hawke manages to extract some solution from Washington he will still face intense criticism of the decision-making process employed.

At risk

Senator Peter Cook, convenor of the Centre Left faction, warned today that the future of the Hawke Government was at risk unless it learnt from its handling of the MX issue.

His comments related to the fact that the decision was taken without consultation with cabinet, the full ministry or the caucus.

"If we don't get it right, our future as a government is at risk," he said.

"The danger is a repeat of the MX fiasco and growing tension in the party about the elite and a privileged few making decisions that the wider group of politicians can't live with," he said. — NZPA-AAP.

LAOS

LAOS' AGRICULTURAL SUCCESSES REPORTED

[Editorial Report] Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian of 22 March 1985 carries on page 3 a 700-word article by V. Khrekov entitled "Beacons of the Laotian Village." It reports on the achievements of Laotian agriculture, particularly those of the Soviet-supported cooperative farm "Latsen." The article also mentions the success achieved in planting a second crop during the dry season. It states: "In the current season in the province of Vientiane the first winter [dry season] sowings have achieved a record area--more than 8,000 hectares."

CSO: 1807/255

LAOS

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON PROGRESS OF CENSUS WORK

BK251126 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Interview with Khamphet Phengmuang, first deputy chairman of State Planning Committee and head of office of Central Population Census Guidance Committee, by unidentified station reporter--date not given; recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified station reporter] Could you explain what the situation was like on the first 5 days of the population census registration?

[Khamphet Phengmuang] Generally speaking, the situation of the population census registration in the past 5 days was quite good. The surveyors have conducted interviews with families in an orderly manner. Our people of all tribes, students, pupils, intellectuals, cadres, soldiers, policemen and workers appeared very sincere in answering questions with complete facts on the contents of the population census procedure. This is because our people have clearly and profoundly appreciated and understood the party's correct policy on this work. The surveyors have received full and excellent cooperation and assistance from the people everywhere. On behalf of the agency in charge of this population census, I would like to laud our people of all tribes, administrative committees at all levels, cadres, soldiers, policemen, and workers for contributing positively to carrying out this work.

[Reporter] What additional suggestions would you give to the surveyors to carry out this historic population census in a more effective manner?

[Khamphet Phengmuang] We still have 2 more days to conduct the population registration. To fulfill the objectives of this historic population census work, I have the following suggestions for our surveyors:

1. All data to be recorded on the population registration form by the surveyors must be acquired through conducting direct interviews with the people in question. This data must be reviewed for accuracy and completion. When the surveyors think that the data is correct and complete, they must read it to the families they have interviewed before they affix their signatures on the form. They should not allow heads of family to affix their signatures before the interviews are conducted.

2. The surveyors must ask the questions thoroughly in conducting interviews in accordance with the instruction in the handbook on population census registration. They must not be hasty and careless. They must correctly follow the instructions contained in the handbook.

3. To ensure that the population census registration is executed in accordance with the instructions, the surveyors must rely on and have the handbook with them at all times. If they find something ambiguous, they must consult with village headmen with which they work for clarification. The village headmen must pay attention to promptly checking and correcting any erroneous data on the form at the end of each day and constantly advise and encourage the surveyors to maintain a sense of responsibility by conducting interviews thoroughly and recording data correctly on the form.

4. After the completion of the 7-day population census registration, the surveyors must strictly comply with the system of handing over documents. They must keep registration documents in safe places and security guards must be appointed to provide protection for these documents. In making initial reports to the higher levels, they must pay attention to adhering to the timetable and regulations stipulated in the population census plan.

CSO: 4206/104

LAOS

POPULATION CENSUS, BORDER ISSUES DISCUSSED

BK251548 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 14 Mar 85

["Feature" on conversation between "Comrade Ka" and "Comrade Han"--date not given; recorded]

[Excerpt] ["Ka"] I want to discuss with you another issue, comrade. What is the current situation in our country? I want you, comrade, to tell me about it.

["Han"] Well, there is a significant development in our country at present. From 1 to 7 March, a historic population census was carried out. You must be fully aware of this. This census was completed brilliantly. Another issue is the campaign to score achievements to welcome the two historical anniversaries in 1985 which has been energetically carried out by our entire party, army, and people--be they in the countryside or urban areas. Of course, our people aspire to score as many glorious achievements as possible.

However, aggressive by nature, the imperialists and reactionaries are stepping up sabotage and subversive activities against us, for example along the northern and western borders, especially in the areas in the vicinity of the three villages of Ban Mai, Ban Kang and Ban Savang in Sayaboury Province. The enemies have intensified their subversive activities in these areas to create unrest and disturbances among our people. They have constantly fired artillery against the three villages. In addition, they have also sent aircraft to fly many spy flights over our territory. As for our people whom they recently evacuated by force to the Houai Yang detention camp, the enemies have stepped up their control of them by prohibiting these people from earning their living outside the camp. More serious still, if these forced Lao evacuees defy the order and leave the camp to make their living outside, they are often persecuted and intimidated by Thai authorities. They are sometimes even accused of contacting the Lao side. That is the situation in that area. As for other provinces, the enemies have implemented sinister designs against Laos as well, for example, in Bokeo, Khammouane, Savannakhet, and Bolikhamsai Provinces. The enemies have sent exiled Lao reactionaries--henchmen of the Thai and Chinese reactionaries--to create disturbances among and to steal from our people. That is the prevailing situation, comrade.

["Ka"] Well, these exiled Lao reactionaries are so obstinate and arrogant. These people no longer have a homeland in which to live. They have already been punished by the Lao people. But why are the Thai reactionaries still giving them support? Therefore, I think, our officers and men must constantly increase a sense of vigilance to smash and multifaceted subversive and sabotage schemes of the enemies.

["Han"] That is right, comrade.

["Ka"] Well, I have to go now, comrade. Thank you very much for enlightening me about the issues we have discussed. I have to say good-bye now. Thank you.

["Han"] All right. So long, comrade.

CSO: 4206/104

LAOS

BRIEFS

LEADERS VISIT EXHIBITION HALL--Vientiane, 22 March (KPL)--Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP CC, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Souphanouvong, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC, president of the republic, of the People's Supreme Assembly, and of the Lao Front for National Construction, and other leaders, yesterday paid a visit to the revolutionary exhibition hall on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the LPRP (22 March). On the occasion, the top leaders were received by Somsri Desakhamphou, and Pheli Khounlaleuk, deputy-ministers of the culture. The top leaders also viewed and looked at photos, sculptural pieces, artifacts depicting the [word indistinct] of natural resources and the heroic tradition of struggle and assiduousness of the Lao people in the last few hundred years--in particular during the period of party's leadership in struggling against the French colonialists, U.S. imperialist, and during the socialist transformation and construction in Laos. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0918 GMT 22 Mar 85 BK]

VIETNAMESE PROVINCIAL COOPERATION--Vientiane, 21 March (KPL)--A delegation of Vietnamese Nghe Tinh Province, led by Nguyen Ba Member of the standing party committee and chairman of the people's committee of the province, on 12 March, visited Bolikhamsai Province of Laos, approximately about 150 km south of Vientiane. While there, the Vietnamese delegation met with Bounthon Losaipangna, secretary of the party committee and chairman of the administrative committee of Bolikhamsai. They also signed a memorandum on bilateral economic, cultural and public health cooperation for 1985-1990. The two sides further decided to officially create a sisterlyhood relations between the two provinces. The Vietnamese delegation left there, on 15 March, after ending its 3 day visit. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 21 Mar 85 BK]

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS FROM FRANCE--Vientiane, 22 March (KPL)--A handing-over ceremony of 1,000 books on technical and scientific studies from France to the state scientific and technical council of Laos was held here yesterday. Present at the ceremony were Souli-gnavong, chairman of the state scientific and technical council of the Lao PDR and Jean Noel de Bouillane de Lacoste, ambassador of France to Laos. The books are equivalent to 120,800 francs. It is the 4th of the series that France handed aid to Laos. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0926 GMT 22 Mar 85 BK]

SALI, OFFICIALS VISIT HOSPITALS--Vientiane, 24 March (KPL)--Leaders of the party and government, on 22 March visited various hospitals in Vientiane on the

occasion of the 30th anniversary of the LPRP (22 March). Sali Vongkhamsoo, secretary of LPRP CC, vice chairman of the council of ministers, chairman of the State Planning Committee, led a well-wishing team to visit hospital No 1. Saman Vi-gnaket, secretary of the LPRP CC, head of the Organizational Board of the party CC, visited hospital No 103. Maichantan, Sengmani, secretary of the LPRP CC, head of the party and State Control Committee, visited Mahosot Hospital and Faidang Lobaiayao, vice-president of the People's Supreme Assembly, and the Lao Front for National Construction, visited Setthathilat Hospital. At all hospitals, the leaders had a cordial discussion with the patients and wished them to get better very soon. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0905 GMT 24 Mar 85 BK]

LEADERS ATTEND PERFORMANCES--Vientiane, 23 March (KPL)--The art troupe unit of the Lao People's Army, on 21 March, gave performance to the leaders of the party and government to mark the 30th anniversary of the LPRP (22 March). In attendance were Kaysone Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP CC, chairman of the Council of Ministers, Souphanouvong, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC, president of the republic, of the People's Supreme Assembly and of the Lao Front for National Construction, and other leaders. Most of the dancing rhythm performed reflected the heroic tradition of struggle and assiduousness of the Lao Armed Forces and people. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0919 GMT 23 Mar 85 BK]

PHOUN SIPASEUT OPENS EXHIBITION--Vientiane, 22 March (KPL)--The Ministry of Culture opened here on 20 March fine-art and printing material exhibition to mark the 30th anniversary of the LPRP (22 March). The fine-art and printing material on show included books, magazines, newspaper, printings, sculptures, stamps and handicraft items. Phoun Sipaseut, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister for foreign affairs took part in the opening ceremony. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 22 Mar 85 BK]

PEACE COMMITTEE DELEGATION--Phnom Penh, SPK, 19 March--A delegation of the Kampuchean Peace Committee, headed by Yit Kimseng, president, left Phnom Penh Monday for Moscow to attend a meeting of the presidential committee of the World Peace Council to be held in the Soviet capital from 22-23 March. Yit Kimseng, also minister of public health, was seen off at Pochentong Airport by Chhea Thang, vice minister of public health; and Achot 2. Melik Chakhatnazarov, counsellor of the Soviet Embassy to Kampuchea. [Text] [Phnom Penh SPK in English 1125 GMT 19 Mar 85 BK]

CSO: 4200/690

NEW CALEDONIA

GROWING EXTREMISM THREATENS PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

Paris LE MONDE in French 19, 20, 21 Feb 85

[Three-part article by Alain Rollat: "The Rise of the Extremists"]

[19 Feb 85 pp 1, 8]

[Text] The incidents which took place in the mining town of Thio on 17 February, during which seven Melanesians and two patrolmen were wounded, ended the period of calm that had prevailed in New Caledonia ever since Mitterrand's visit. The leaders of the Kanaka Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) demanded on Monday the expulsion from the territory of the representatives of the Caledonian Front (extreme right), who were the organizers of the "picnic" which had originally triggered the violent clash between Kanakas and the police. They also stopped negotiations with Pisani.

"I told Pisani about it. I am ready to organize militias. If the incidents which took place in Thio after the 18 November elections reoccur, we will bring in Noumeans with the necessary weapons to defend the town against the FLNKS terrorists." Since it is Roger Laroque who is expressing this view, we must believe him. The mayor of Noumea may sometimes annoy his friends of the Rally for Caledonia in the Republic (RPCR), but the fact that he has been constantly reelected since 1953, is surely a proof that many of his constituents concur with his candor.

Moreover, he has dealt with militias before. Some had already been formed in Noumea in June 1958 to support the activities of the Committee of Public Safety of French Algeria created in Algiers and it is not by chance that some of the players of this Algerian period are currently heading the National Support Committee of French New Caledonia.

This "dear Laroche," as General de Gaulle used to call him informally during his visit to the territory in September 1966, is also loved in Noumea because the story of his family features prominently in the collective memory of the Caledonian community and because his own career is a local model of socio-

political success. As a matter of fact, his great-grand father, a modest Auvergnat worker, who landed with the missionaries in 1843, was one of the first colonists to settle voluntarily in New Caledonia and prosper after having made his fortune in Australia. As for his political role, he owes most of it to the economic power of another old family, that one from Bordeaux, the Ballande (currently a turnover of over 3 billion CFP francs--165 million francs--earned from foodstuffs, marketing, electrical appliances, livestock breeding, engineering, barge hauling, etc); he was one of their leading employees for a long time. No one denies his qualification as spokesman for the "white town." Roger Laroque therefore expresses a feeling widely shared within the European community when talking about his political friends he says: "Our elected officials have been too moderate until now with regard to laxist governments."

If, however, the opinion of the mayor of Noumea reflects the Caledonian "standard," where should we place the Caledonian Front--the organizer of the Thio "picnic" on Sunday 17 February--which voices the same opinion? To the extreme right? Needless to say, its leaders reject this label. "We are not extremists," says the chairman of this new party which appeared on the Caledonian scene in autumn of 1981. "It is true that we stand to the right of the RPCR, but we represent the deep-rooted Caledonia and we are extremely legalistic; we are simply asking that the laws of the French republic be applied in the territory."

"Deep-rooted Caledonia?" The leading boss of the Caledonia Front, Justin Gillemard, one of the most active representatives of the Caledonian community from the Bourail agricultural region, could legitimately aspire to represent it by virtue of his origins. His successor, Claude Sarran, seems more like a neophyte. A Caledonian of recent vintage, this 34-year old trade employee was, as a matter of fact, born in the Gers. He has been a Caledonian for 14 years only. His deputy, Alain Dagostini, 41 years old, professor of economics, is a "pied-noir," who came to Noumea 13 years ago. Their comrades--civil servants, shopkeepers, artisans and heads of enterprises--are undoubtedly representative, but they represent above all the middle classes of the European community, some of them recent immigrants, who have always joined forces in order to protect their economic interests.

Sarran states proudly: "We were born in the street." It is true. The first public outburst of the Caledonian Front, which was as yet not organized, occurred in July 1982, when some 30 local young activists violently berated the new majority of the Territorial Assembly, controled for the first time by the Independentist Front. A simple heckling, according to Sarran, who smilingly recalls his brief prison stay.

Therefore, ever since the assumption of power by the left in the homeland, Sarran and his comrades have considered themselves to be in a state of resistance. For them, "New Caledonia has become Poland" and "the socialist government, the worst enemy of France;" the Caledonians must counter "the pressures and threats aimed at distorting the democratic process" and hold on "to their territory and convictions without letting themselves be manipulated." They say that "Therein

lies salvation; the socialist government will not last forever. The Caledonian tragedy must be Mitterrand's Watergate."

What is the solution to this crisis? It is very simple. It involves dealing with the Kanaka demands as with any provincial particularism; if not, "We might as well grant independence to the Savoyards, Bretons, Corsicans and Basques." The Caledonian Front wants to be more progressive than Laroque, an ardent departmentalist. Its leaders advocate an autonomist status for the territory modeled on that of Corsica. The rest is only a question of "order, security, defense of a democratic and liberal society guaranteeing free enterprise and private property for all the ethnic groups in the territory." It is obviously advisable to "Loosen the administrative yoke in order to favor private initiative and alleviate taxation by abolishing income tax, among other things."

Of course, the Caledonian Front advocated voting for the Jean-Marie Le Pen ticket in the European elections of last June. The head of the French extreme right caused some damage in New Caledonia: 15.72 percent of the total votes cast (5,044 votes) for the whole territory and 19.54 percent (3,200 votes) in Noumea. Nevertheless, the Caledonian Front remains distinct from the National Front in the same way that it refused to follow Justing Guillemard when he joined the RPCR, resulting in his resignation and replacement by Sarran.

The reason for which the Caledonian Front did not join forces with the National Front was essentially due to personality clashes which split Le Pen's local supporters at the time of the 18 November territorial elections. The two extreme right parties went to the polls on separate tickets: The Caledonian Front under Sarran's leadership and the National Front under Roger Gaillot's, who was then mayor of Thio. Neither faction was able to recoup the number of votes garnered by the president of the National Front in June. The National Front continues to act alone, prompted mainly by another neophyte, the ADG novelist, Alain Camille, correspondent of MINUTE in Noumea, who for 2 weeks now has been publishing the weekly periodical COMBAT CALEDONIEN, the militant goal of which is to "Resist the devious designs of the pink government."

The Caledonian Front wants to remain autonomous in order to "goad" on-site the elected officials of the territorial majority. Its slogan, "ROC," flourishes in Noumea. Understand by that the Caledonian Opposition Renewal. What about the FLNKS? It is a false problem according to Sarran. "Tjibaou is the leader of a gang of killers. When he said on television that, if the referendum did not give him independence, he would not accept the verdict of the polls, it was lucky that he could not spit through the screen, for the spittle would have landed in many a Frenchman bowl of soup!" What about the inequalities suffered by the Kanakas? What inequalities? "The Melanesians take it easy," stresses Dagostini, a professor repatriated from Algeria.

'Without Ceremony'

The tone of the watchwords at the Caledonian Front remains very moderate when compared to that of the autumn of 1981, when other small extreme right groups were distributing pamphlets signed "Legitimate defense," reading: "We have been betrayed and handed over to the savages. To arms, Caledonians! The age

of tolerance or patience is over, on to an armed counterattack." The same pamphlet listed by name "Those responsible for racial hatred and savage violence: The Guartars, those vultures; Macharo, the misfit; Naisseline, the crank; Tjibaou, the defrocked;" etc.

The authors of these heinous lines have not deserted. They can be found within a mysterious "Crisis Committee," perhaps the nucleus of a new "Committee of Public Safety," whose prime movers, diehard bushmen, retired policemen and former paratroopers, who have become instructors in the many rifle clubs, gather at dusk on the parking lot of Moselle Bay to plan the defense of Caldochia, should something happen. Sarrao talks mysteriously about his "friends." He says: "We act, unlike the people in power."

At the time of the first land seizures, members of that party often lent a hand to the colonists affected by the independentist demands. They also helped after 18 November when it became necessary to set up a permanent watch system in the areas heavily inhabited by Europeans. The Caledonian Front maintains excellent relations with military circles and some policemen. With the help of its members who have CBs, it picks up police messages. "We have a few listening devices," freely admits Sarrao showing photocopies of some of these messages. What is more natural than spying on the police? "Here, everybody knows everybody, and everything becomes public knowledge. That is why terrorism is not very strong for the time being." No, what shocks the chairman of the Caledonian Front even more, to change the subject, is the fact that the home press tends to reduce the territorial crisis to a cohabitation problem among various ethnic groups. He says: "Here, we lived without ceremony. Before, we may have had Kanakas and dumb idiots, but we did not talk about Blacks and Whites. Color was introduced recently and has disturbed relations among us." And what if, as announced, the FLNKS were now to launch an economic battle against Noumea? "We will show that we refuse to be the Kanakas' immigrants!"

[20 Feb 85 p 9]

[Text] After the violent incidents which took place on 17 February in the mining town of Thio, the leaders of the Kanaka National Socialist Liberation Front (FLNKS) asked their supporters to plan more actively actions aimed at "destabilizing colonial interest." (See LE MONDE dated 19 February)

The insurgents have a prominent site, two steps from the center of Noumea, the "white town" and stronghold of their opponents: "Government of Kanaky." It is written in green ink on a white sheet of paper posted on an ocre wall between the Communist Revolutionary League poster of Eloi Machero "assassinated on French colonial orders" and that of LE FIGARO's special envoy, accompanied by the following caption: "Mililitants, wherever you may be, do not forget this face."

That night, as usual, activists in charge of maintaining order were chatting in the garden in the shadow of a lychee tree topped with Kanaky's flag imprinted

with a black crested arrow against a solar disk in the background. A few secretaries were busy on the second floor of the villa, whereas on the first floor the Political Bureau was polishing the press communiqué which was to summarize the conclusions of the congress held in Nakety on Saturday, 9 February (see LE MONDE dated 12 February). Everything was calm at FLNKS headquarters, 10 Gambetta Place.

Drafting the communiqué was proving to be difficult. The FLNKS leadership was trying to ease the impact of the disclosure of the decision taken behind closed doors by its local committee which was to take up soon again the on-site offensive by carrying out "actions for the economic destabilization of colonial and neocolonial interests." Finally, the official version of the resolution adopted by the Congress had become more elliptic: "It is the on-site organization of the Kanaka people itself which will destabilize colonial interests."

A week later, following the Thio incidents, there was a change in pace: The 32 FLNKS regional committees had just received the directive to hasten the implementation of the economic destabilization action. It was the new "minister of security" of the "provisional government," Leopold Joredie, who was to coordinate this phase of the independentist movement's strategy.

Eloi Machero's successor is not a sabre rattler. "We need time to get organized." He does not personally wish for the secret destabilization plan to be initiated too rapidly. What he fears most of all is to be unable to control the activists, tempted to carry out ill-timed operations. Joredie knows better than anyone else that the FLNKS is not the FLN, nor even the FLNC, even less the IRA or the Luminous Path.

'The Revolutionary Tax'

The weaknesses of the independentist coalition are many: Lack of material resources; an almost total lack of communications among the six regional committees; and a shortage of supervisory personnel. Membership training, which began when the Front was created in June 1979, has yet to overcome the handicaps inherent in the ancestral, clan and linguistic particularities of the Melanesian community. For 7 years, under Eloi Machero's personal influence, the central region of Grande Terre, demarcated by the community territories of Thio, Canala, la Foa, Sarramea and Bouloupari, held the role of a militant vanguard on the Caledonian scene, but the other regions did not follow the pace imposed by the FLNKS "war chief." Eloi Machero's final "neutralization" therefore dealt a very hard blow to the independentist movement.

The FLNKS did not die for all that. The coalition withstood the shock. The risk was great that the young members of PALIKA (Kanaka Liberation Party), advocates of direct action and formerly very critical of the small-step strategy favored by Jean-Marie Tjibaou, would leave the Front which they had joined in December. Leopold Joredie told us before the Nakety congress: "PALIKA is used to specific actions, but little inclined toward continued action. If PALIKA now carries out isolated actions, it will become dangerous, for the whole of the FLNKS will have to assume responsibility." At the Nakety congress, PALIKA too declared its willingness to support unity.

As it stands, this concern for unity, perceptible at all levels of the FLNKS organization, is a new factor within the Kanaka community. Its repercussions will be important for, since the 1853 "takeover," the divided Kanaka tribes have always been weaker than their colonizers.

The independentists politically control 18 of the 32 communal territories in New Caledonia

The Caldoches and the few members of the other ethnic minorities, who continue to live in the areas in which Melanesians dominate, are more than ever isolated. The FLNKS compensates for the weakness of its structures and organization only with its ability to hold the terrain in those parts of the territory. In the area in which it dominates, its influence is even sometimes exercised brutally.

On Saturday 9 February, the minister of education of the territorial government, Delin Wema, was jostled and threatened to death by a group of independentist activists from the Coula tribe to which he belongs. A few days previously, the new president-general director of Air Caledonie, the successor at this post of the FLNKS No 2 man, had been attacked by other activists in a suburb of Noumea.

The rare colonists authorized to remain in the localities held by the FLNKS are forced to pay a revolutionary "tax." Such is the case for example of Noel Kabar, the last Caldoche breeder in Canala, who regularly pays the price for his peaceful cohabitation with the local FLNKS with a few heads of cattle, the use of his farm equipment and his own labor. On the day of the Nakety congress, this easy-going man supplied beef to feed the participants. The chairman of the local FLNKS committee asserts that each time he offers to pay the breeder for his "services," but that each time the latter stubbornly refuses. Kabar's wife, however, has kept track: The total amount of this strange "rent" comes to some 600,000 CFP francs annually, or 30,000 francs.

The FLNKS leadership, however, knows very well that this on-site presence is insufficient to enable it to gain independence illegally or by force, even armed. Armed, the FLNKS is. It has at its disposal several hundred carbines and rifles as well as reserves of dynamite. There is enough to equip its most determined supporters. At the Nakety congress of 9 February, several young activists were showing off gleaming rifles. That is not enough to make up a revolutionary army. It would be enough, if needed be, to form commando groups.

The armed struggle is one of the choice under study. As a matter of fact, it has been practiced almost continually since 1853 against the French. The list of bloody skirmishes between Kanakas and colonists is long. However, except for the mutinies of 1878 and 1917, violence has been very localized and limited. If armed struggle is not currently on the agenda, it is because in that sector the ratio of forces is not favorable to the FLNKS. Not only is the presence of the policemen and French soldiers a deterrent but the Caldoches' artillery fire power is superior to that of the Kanakas. According to the police, there is an average of four rifles per adult European bushmen to one per four Kanakas.

The FLNKS is not currently in a position to sustain an armed confrontation. Tjibaou did not deny Francois Mitterrand's analysis, when the president of the republic told him during their meeting in Noumea on 19 January: "Let us assume that everything happens as you want it; that you win the referendum; and that I proclaim the independence. With what weapons will you then enter Noumea?"

That is why the FLNKS leaders insist so much with Pisani, as they did with the minister of the interior, on getting the police to seize the Caldoches' armament, whom they suspect of having clandestine arsenals. Leopold Joredie stresses: "If we take the Caldoches' guns, they will appreciate better the ratio of forces." The clues which the police have investigated up to now have yielded no results, except for the discovery of two empty "caches," somewhere on the east coast.

On the other hand, individual arsenals are well stocked. A few days ago in Voh, a bushman filed a complaint after being robbed of one carbine and five rifles of various calibers, including a Lebel in perfect operating condition. In Thio, another European accused Eloi Machero's men of having stolen from him nine weapons and a mere 12,000 bullets! Furthermore, CB equipment has become more widespread among the Europeans, whereas it has remained a rarity among the Kanakas.

'It Does Not Take Long To Burn a Town'

The FLNKS would rather consider an economic war because in that sector it holds positions which give it a better advantage, right from the start.

After all, this war began even before the Nakety congress, when the Melanesian workers of the Thio-Mission tribe belonging to the personnel of Le Nickel Company refused to return to work; it was followed by sabotage committed in Kouaoua and the dynamiting of a few electric pylons. The FLNKS leadership, through Joredie, wants to control the planning and, eventually, the launching of these activities by trying, most of all, to assume control over the autonomous action groups that Eloi Machero had begun to form, which were to begin carrying out specific operations under his direct command.

Will this nucleus of a clandestine armed band--supervised by some of the 17 "trainees" initiated last autumn by the Libyans in the basics of the martial arts--return to the fold? Or will it be tempted by activism against the advice of the new "minister of security?" In any case, the FLNKS has the means to carry out economic offensives against the county seat in order to "incite from the start" a maximum number of anti-independentists.

As a matter of fact, Noumea, the economic heart of New Caledonia, is very vulnerable. To force the Doniambo plant, which manufactures nickel and whose installations dominate the port, to close down, would be sufficient to bankrupt the whole town totally. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has estimated that if this metallurgical complex were to close down, the result would be direct or indirect unemployment for close to 7,000 people. As it stands, the Doniambo plant needs ore, electricity and water to operate. These three sources of energy are located in the bush, out of town. The ore comes from the east coast,

the electricity from the Yate Dam, built in the southeastern section of the territory, and the water from the Dumbea, north of Noumea.

As stressed by a PALIKA member: "Noumea needs the bush to survive. Panic could be spread easily in Noumea by simply preventing the resumption of mining in Thio and Kouaoua and sabotaging a few lines and pipelines." So far, no FLNKS leader has seriously considered the possibility of resorting to this ultimate phase of such an economic destabilization plan, the implementation of which could ratify either a total break with Pisani and the government or a failure of the independentist movement at the self-determination polls.

Personally, Joredie favors a creeping destabilization, including the boycott of Noumea merchants, and retaining on-site "revolving" operations. The leadership committee of the Caledonian Union, which met on Saturday 16 February, also expressed its preference, for the time being, for setting up a "parallel economy" within the Kanaka community. As for Tjibaou, he stressed in an interview published in the EL MOUDJAHID issue of Wednesday 13 February: "Setting Noumea on fire will not take long; it is small; it is not big like Algiers. However, we do respect the tools of labor because independence must be built and developed."

The point is to know if, having lit the fuse, the FLNKS strategists will be in a position to control the progress of the flame.

[21 Feb p 7]

[Text] The economic destabilization plan of New Caledonia conceived by the independentist leaders in an attempt to weaken the European community concentrated in Noumea calls for a whole range of operations. The procedure must be set by Leopold Joredie, Eloi Machero's successor as "minister of security" of the FLNKS provisional government (see LE MONDE dated 19 and 20 February).

To each his own bunker. Since his arrival in Noumea, Edgar Pisani has lived as a recluse in his residence surrounded by elite policemen or Red Berets with the result that each of his rare visits to the bush or to town takes on the dimension of an event. The same psychosis apparently prevails inside the Foch building, in the center of town, whose grey bulk houses the territorial government. The bureau chief of the local executive, Dick Ukeiwe, on the 10th floor, is also protected by armed men. There is always a CRS [Republican Security Company (State Mobile Police)] posted in the hall, watching the elevator doors; in the waiting room, a guard openly displays a revolver stuck in his belt.

It is the center of the independentist resistance of which the Melanesian senator, the new star of the RPR [Rally for the Republic] of Luxembourg Palace, has become the leading figure. How far he has come the little teacher from Lifou! What has happened ever since he was active in the Caledonian Union at a time when his present opponent, Jean-Marie Tjibaou, was still in the seminary? How

long ago when even the most conservative Caldoche considered him a dangerous extremist because he had gone to Hanoi in 1958, sent by the territorial government to praise the struggle of the Vietnamese people and predict the liberation of the Kanaka people in the near future! Since the 18 November elections, Dick Ukeiwe has strengthened the legality of his political struggle against independence by giving his party, the Rally for Caledonia in the Republic, the absolute majority in the territorial assembly.

The machinery organized by his RPR political friends has been set up. Bernard Pons came early in December to outline this stage of the plan. During his recent inspection visit, Charles Pasqua verified that everything was ready. The experts of the Chirac's movement leadership take turns in Noumea. A former prefect, Jacques Chartron, a specialist in electoral issues, came to plan the next self-determination poll. Daniel Naftalski, deputy-director of Jacques Chirac's cabinet at the Paris Hotel de Ville, gave Ukeiwe the benefit of the skill he had acquired from 1975 to 1978 as director of the cabinet of the high commissioner of the republic in French Polynesia, then successively from 1978 to 1980 in the cabinet of the secretary of state to the DOM-TOM [Overseas Departments-Overseas Territories], Paul Dijoud, and from 1980 to 1981 in the cabinet of Prime Minister Raymond Barre.

The RPR Leadership at the Helm

Naftalski was deeply involved in the formulation of the counter-project, opposed by the president of the government, to the independence-association plan defended by Pisani. In addition, 2 weeks ago, Yves Fromion, former director of Pons' cabinet, became Ukeiwe's righthand man. The RPR Parisian leadership heads the operations. The president of the RPR Senate group has reiterated the directives: Mitterrand must be forced to retreat, as the national opposition succeeded in doing in the private school war, or, failing to do so, drag the procedure until the 1986 legislative elections.

Ukeiwe is therefore trying to make time and is increasing the preliminary requirements to any meeting with Pisani.

That Chirac and his Parisian lieutenants are thus taking the place of the RPR deputy of the territory, Jacques Lafleur, is not surprising. Is it not under the amicable pressure of the mayor of Paris that the Relay for Caledonia, founded in 1977 by Lafleur, changed in July 1978, on the occasion of a visit to Noumea by the former prime minister, into the Rally for Caledonia in the Republic, the RPR's territorial pole? If, from time to time, Lafleur, whom some of his political friends sometimes find too moderate, becomes moody, this does not last very long. The RPR deputy did not pursue further his intention of giving up the RPCR chairmanship. The success of the recent demonstrations to which he invited the population of Noumea, comforted him. He recently walked in a parade in the center of town, tricolor sash over the shoulder and holding arms with Pasqua and Ukeiwe.

Affection for the 'Pebble'

Such radicalizing, however, does not reflect the average feeling of the Caldoche community, which shows an even stronger affection for the "Pebble"

that it recently showed for the homeland. For example, what worries the spokesman of the Ukeiwe government, Yves Magnier, oceanographer by training and a recent member of the RPCR, whose great-grand father was a postman in Canala, is less the prospect of independence than the FLNKS "ideology:" "Tjibaou is a budding dictator. How can the authorities support such a minority and pretend to impose from Paris such a choice upon us?"

Gabriel Barrau, the owner of a chain of department stores, who belongs to one of the oldest families in the territory, says roughly the same thing: "The most important thing for those of us who have invested everything here is to be able to continue working in peace. Is Tjibaou the appropriate interlocutor?"

The Caldoche consensus subsists on certainties as old as colonization: The Kanakas are not ready for independence; in any case, why talk about a Kanaka people when there has never been anything more than antagonistic clans; the customarily traditions so strongly instilled in all Melanesians are absolutely incompatible with the Western concepts of work, etc. Every Caldoche has a bottomless stock of examples. Magnier says: "Here, economic power is open to all, but people cannot be forced to work."

Some people, however, are looking for compromise formulas between the extreme positions of the FLNKS and those of the anti-independentists. In the comments he submitted to Pisani on behalf of the professional organizations, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry objected to the concept of Kanaka independence, while not rejecting all forms of independence. It wrote: "We think that, in the framework of the search for independence, other models may exist:

- 1) A Caledonian polyethnic and multiracial independence, granting all inhabitants of this territory, regardless of race or religion, the same political rights and obligations and equal guarantees for the safeguard of their goods and persons and their right to work;
- 2) a federal independence modeled on Switzerland, with equal political rights and obligations for all citizens with very broad autonomy on the regional level, but a single federal organization at the top;
- 3) finally, if we consider that the Caledonian problem could spread to all other French overseas territories, including Corsica, why not look for an overall solution for all of them by instituting a proper structure whenever such French territories gain their independence?

In the plan that he must submit to the government at the end of March, will Pisani draw some inspiration from such proposals in order to break the deadlock?

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CSO: 4219/41

NEW ZEALAND

SCIENTIST BACKS NUCLEAR LINKS WITH U.S.

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 5 Feb 85 p 5

[Text]

The Auckland crusading scientist Dr Jim Sprott has found a new vehicle for his latest cause — supporting the American nuclear alliance.

Alarmed at widespread publicity for the anti-nuclear side, he has agreed to speak for a new group to be called Peace Through Security.

"The time has come when there must be some co-ordinated group which brings out the facts on this issue," he said.

"There needs to be an education programme. Someone has got to make a start, and I guess that's me."

Just turned 60, Dr Sprott has never shunned controversy. Although he has campaigned for road safety for many years, he is probably best known for his work as the forensic chemist who questioned the crown case against Mr Arthur Allan Thomas in the Crewe murder case.

Dangerous

Ironically, he said he was prompted to step into the nuclear debate by the same event which inspired many of the anti-nuclear campaigners — a visit by the

Australian peace activist Dr Helen Caldicott in 1983.

"She is a very dangerous woman," said Dr Sprott.

"She is inculcating fear into children by telling them that nuclear war is inevitable. I have had children come up to me and ask whether it is true.

"She said nuclear war would happen within 10 years. She said before the presidential elections [in the United States] last year that we had seven months to save the world."

To Dr Sprott, such talk is "dangerously superficial."

Convinced

He believes nuclear weapons have actually kept the peace by making war "unthinkable."

"I am quite convinced that, had it not been for the nuclear deterrent, World War III would have already started, and probably finished," he said.

"Let us assume there was nuclear disarmament.

"Then the world would be in an unstable situation. The chance of another war breaking out would be very real, and any war breaking out would soon escalate to nuclear."

Initiative

The worldwide attention being given to the present dispute between the Lange Government and the United States has given birth to Peace Through Security.

"Various people have approached me to take an initiative," said Dr Sprott.

"From a world propaganda point of view, what the Government is doing is a catastrophe. It is handing to the other side a propaganda weapon of inestimable value, to no benefit.

"It is not going to reduce the number of atom bombs in existence.

"It is just going to weaken the very force which has the ability to maintain peace and stability in the world today."

An inaugural public meeting to form Peace Through Security as an incorporated society will be held in Auckland in the near future, followed by meetings in other centres.

Links will be established with similar bodies overseas, including one of the same name in Britain, and speakers will be brought to New Zealand.

CSO: 4200/686

NEW ZEALAND

EDITORIAL ON GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY 'PARADOX'

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 1 Feb 85 p 12

[Editorial: "Making the Economy Grow"]

[Text]

At the heart of the Government's economic policy lies a paradox about the way in which the New Zealand economy has behaved. Investment has been maintained, but the rate of economic growth has fallen. One of the papers prepared for the Economic Summit Conference last year, called "A Briefing on the New Zealand Economy," noted that, in the last two decades, gross investment has been a steady proportion of the country's output of wealth. In the same two decades, growth in output has fallen: from an average of 3.8 per cent in the 1964-1973 period to 1.4 per cent in the decade to 1983. "The amount of additional output produced from a given volume of investment has thus fallen by more than one-half between the two decades," said the paper. The significance of this observation needs to be pondered by everyone concerned about the future of New Zealand.

Two of the assumptions frequently made about the New Zealand economy are challenged by the briefing paper. One is that the New Zealand economy performed well during the 1960s and that the country's problems date from the 1970s. The second assumption is that New Zealand's troubles may largely be laid at the door of the world trading situation. Part of the second assumption is that, when the world economy picks up and there is a better market for livestock products, New Zealand's economy will return to what it once was. The challenge to the assumptions lies in disputing that New Zealand's economic performance was good until the 1970s and, when comparing New Zealand's performance with that of countries which were placed in a position similar to New Zealand's because of the increased price of oil in the 1970s, in finding that New Zealand has performed worse.

The result has been a decline in relative living standards. In 1955, New Zealand had the third highest per capita income in the world. By the late 1960s, New Zealand ranked thirteenth in the world. Countries with which New Zealand's per capita income was comparable in 1955 now have per capita incomes nearly double those in New Zealand.

The conclusion drawn by the Government has been that investment has gone into areas in which the potential for economic growth has been limited. The intention of the Government's economic moves has been to try to allow investment to flow into areas in which there is a greater potential for economic growth for the country. The main moves of the Government have been: the currency devaluation; the removal of agricultural subsidies of which supplementary minimum prices have been the major component; the gradual removal of the performance-based export incentives for manufactured goods; the increase in the import-licensing tender scheme; the continued change from import licensing to tariffs; and the attempt to move away from a centralised wage-fixing system.

Other moves have included the removal of foreign exchange controls; the freeing of interest rates, and the deregulating of the transport industry. Some of these moves were started by the previous Government; the mark of the present Government has been the speed and the logic with which it has addressed itself to the moves. The National Government had so many controls on the economy that such moves as it was making away from these controls did not carry sufficient conviction to persuade business of the direction in which it was going. There is little reason to doubt now that the New Zealand economy is being changed radically.

The reasoning behind the Government's moves is that some of the subsidies in agriculture helped to boost the price of land and that people began farming not for the earning capacity of the farm but for the rising capital value of the land. The importance of

this motive in the total farming scene has been very slight. In fact, the price of farm land has been declining. Some subsidies increased or sustained the production of sheepmeat at a time when there was a declining world demand for sheepmeat. The Government now wants to discourage production, or at least match it to the market. In industry, the cost-plus mentality had long held sway in certain businesses. This type of thinking is alleged to have resulted in firms failing to replace older machinery for more efficient machines. More certainly, it resulted in their accepting high wage demands without too much of a fight. A further proposition is that businesses did not get their supplies of raw materials from the cheapest place and failed to manage themselves properly. If a firm did not have to compete with imports, it could simply charge the domestic customer the extra cost. Exporters, of course, have had to compete abroad, and the argument does not apply generally. Removing protection from imports will mean that industries which are competitive, and in which growth can take place, will be industries that survive or flourish. The hope is that investment will at last start to go to the areas in which growth is possible. The Government's policy, if it is made to stick, means that some industries will not survive. Further, the Government has resolved that it does not want to intervene to protect ailing industries or to encourage or endorse industries that appeal for Government backing.

The changes will not cure the New Zealand economy overnight. They will cause unfamiliar pain in some areas. Troubles abound for the Government over the next few months. The inflation rate to the end of March, 1985, is likely

to be about 12 per cent for the year. This compares with 3.4 per cent for the year to March, 1984, according to the measure used by the Reserve Bank, or 5.2 per cent according to the measure used by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research in its recent "Medium Term Review 1984." In the past, one response to higher inflation has been investment in property, which is exactly the sort of non-productive area which the Government wants to avoid. It will take time for the Government's policies to be effective. Eventually, if the policies work, investment in property will relate to the earning capacity of that property rather than to growth in capital value. A business will pay the rent it can afford according to its own ability to earn, not be subsidised by the taxpayer or be protected from competitive imports. In the shorter-term those who fear inflation may still look to property for investment. This policy, and high interest rates, may not be good news for tenants of living accommodation until property values, over a long period, decline.

Much of the skill in Government over the next few months will lie in persuading people that the Government is serious in pursuing the course it has set itself, and that eventual good will come of it for most people. Only when investors and others are convinced will the whole package start to work quickly. Those who oppose what the Government is doing might well ask themselves what alternatives the country has. The previous Government, more cautiously, had embarked on some of the same policies. The logic of the country's poor economic performance limits the choices. The country has gone far enough in seeing its relative living standards decline, in seeing unemployment grow, and in seeing its balance-of-payments deteriorate. Although some further decline seems inevitable in the short and medium term, provided the Government holds to its policy, a way out of a long decline is being offered. This is a bold policy, fraught with economic and political dangers. The Government's keenest hope must be that the pain will be short-lived.

NEW ZEALAND

AUCKLAND PAPER REPORTS ON PRC SUPPORT IN ISSUE

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 4 Feb 85 p 5

[Text]

NZPA Hong Kong

The mouthpiece of Chinese Communist Party opinion, the *People's Daily*, has published a commentary endorsing New Zealand's ban on visits by nuclear ships.

The article came the day before the announcement that the party chief, Mr Hu Yaobang, would visit Australia and New Zealand.

It was the first indication of Chinese views on the issue.

The article said the attitude taken by New Zealand was quite legitimate and was a position that could be usefully emulated by other countries.

It said New Zealand had shown superpowers they could no longer get their own way entirely.

An official said the commentary, which began with a summary of moves last week by the United States to gain acceptance for a ship visit, could be seen in its reference to superpowers as applauding New Zealand's stance towards the United States.

And the article had, interestingly, failed to "balance" the reference by any comment on Soviet activity in the Pacific, the official said.

China has traditionally presented its foreign policy position in terms of equidistance from the United States and the Soviet Union.

CSO: 4200/686

NEW ZEALAND

JOINT MARKETING COMPANY OVERCOMES JAPAN EXPORT BARRIERS

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 4 Feb 85 p 6

[Text]

NZPA staff correspondent
Tokyo

In spite of resistance from some quarters, last year saw the highest volume of New Zealand sheepmeat shipments to Japan since 1978-79 and the establishment of an importing organisation fully funded offshore, said the Meat Board's Asian director, Mr Graeme Harrison.

Trade sources said that other countries were watching with interest the board's efforts to become the first commodity exporting organisation in the world to try and by-pass the entrenched Japanese trading house system.

Mr Harrison said the results in the mutton trade since the board had taken over the ownership and marketing of sheepmeat in early 1974 indicated that it was adopting the correct policy in ensuring New Zealand did not compete against itself in the market.

He said that in the case of mutton New Zealand would always be trying to improve its share in a declining market.

The other arm of the board's new strategy in Japan, the Japan New Zealand Lamb Marketing Com-

pany, Ltd, a consortium with private industry to develop lamb sales, was studying the results of a year-long research programme and should be established in Japan in "the near future," he said.

JANMARK was set up in early 1984 as a consortium in which the board holds 50 per cent, with established lamb exporters Top Trading, Ltd, C. S. Stevens and Waitaki N.Z. Refrigerating holding the balance.

The main findings of the intensive research project into the perception of and potential market for sheepmeat in Japan were now with the JANMARK partners, said Mr Harrison.

The board and JANMARK had found what needed to be done and was considering ways of doing it, he said.

"The next stage in the process of being worked out is product forms and the cost of developing the Japanese market."

Mr Harrison would not comment on the findings of the report, other than to say that they confirmed the board's views about the Japanese market. Nor would he comment on the likely cost of developing the

Japanese market for lamb. Industry sources said this was likely to be enormous.

New Zealand's lamb shipments to Japan in recent years have averaged 16,000 tonnes or about 4 per cent of total exports but lamb represents only about 0.3 per cent of the total meat market in Japan.

More than 60 per cent of New Zealand lamb was consumed in the northern island of Hokkaido, which had only 4 per cent of the population, and the meat was virtually unknown to general consumers on the main island, Honshu.

Lamb and mutton shipments on a carcass weight equivalent basis in the year to September, 1984, were 19,745 tonnes of lamb and 37,730 tonnes of mutton (including about 1700 tonnes of mutton processed and re-exported from South Korea).

The figures for the same period in 1983 were 19,244 tonnes of lamb and 25,680 tonnes of mutton.

Mr Harrison said that the mutton shipments reflected the level of sales to Japan by the board-owned, Asian New Zealand Meat Company, Ltd, which took over the trade in February, 1984.

New Zealand had outsold

its main mutton competitor, Australia, in South Korea, Taiwan and Japan in 1984, he said.

The carcass meat, 77 per cent of sheepmeat shipped to Japan last year, was sold at similar prices to that perceived by Australia and had not under-cut that product as suggested in a New Zealand report earlier this month.

The prices received for boneless mutton, 23 per cent of sheepmeat sales, were below that of the Australian prices but the New Zealand boneless product had traditionally sold at a lower price.

"The fact that the quality of boneless is still not perfect is the reason it is cheaper," said Mr Harrison.

"But the changes in the specifications we have introduced should fix that this season."

Mr Harrison said that Asian N.Z. Meat was now wholly Japanese incorporated and funded offshore, selling forward in yen. Control of the product had enabled it to provide consistent pricing and quality, and it had established good relations with the ham manufacturers who were the biggest end users of

mutton.

Most mutton was used as an edible protein which competed with horsemeat and fish-meal in low-grade sausage making.

The manufacturers compared prices and were also using more pork to make ham. Total Japanese imports of mutton had fallen from an annual average of 135,000 tonnes in the 1976-79 period to 83,000 tonnes in 1980/83 and were predicted to have fallen to 80,000 tonnes last year, said Mr Harrison.

The board saw Japan as a rich, meat-eating country whose potential for lamb had not been fully developed.

Although there continued to be resistance in Japan from established importers who had been cut out of the trade, they tended to act as commodity speculators by carrying the cost of importation under the old system where the product was sold in the fluctuating American dollar.

Mr Harrison said Japan was seen as an opportunity market for lamb in which New Zealand could reduce its vulnerability to the pressures of commodity trading in its other markets.

NEW ZEALAND

EDITORIAL FAVORS STRENGTHENING ASIAN TRADE TIES

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 5 Feb 85 p 20

[Editorial: "Changing Trading Pattern"]

[Text]

On the ground of geography alone, it makes more sense for New Zealand to trade with countries that are closer to it. Figures supplied recently by the Department of Statistics, surveying trade in each decade between 1954 and 1984, show there has been a substantial shift in the direction of New Zealand's exports and imports. The Statistics Department considers as a group those countries that are part of the Pacific Basin. These are Japan, Australia, the United States, Canada, the six countries belonging to the Association of South-East Asian Nations, other Pacific-Asian countries, such as China and the Soviet Union, Oceania, and the Pacific seaboard countries of Latin America.

In 1954, 13 per cent of New Zealand's exports went to these countries. The value of the exports was \$62 million. In the year to June, 1984, 64 per cent of New Zealand's exports went to these Pacific countries. The total value was \$5.5 billion. The most rapid changes occurred in the 20 years from 1954 to 1974. By 1964, the percentage of exports taken by the Pacific area had more than doubled to 28 per cent; by 1974 the percentage had again more than doubled, to 58 per cent.

The increased proportion of New Zealand's exports going to the Pacific region was matched by a substantial decrease in the percentage going to Europe. In 1954, non-communist Europe took 83 per cent of New Zealand's exports. Britain alone took 67 per cent. By 1984, non-communist Europe took 20 per cent of New Zealand's total exports, of which Britain took half. The value in 1954 of New Zealand's export trade with non-communist Europe was \$405 million. In 1984,

the value was \$1.7 billion. The biggest decline came in the 1964-1974 decade when the percentage halved from 68 per cent to 34 per cent. Britain still remains one of New Zealand's top four export markets. Japan, Australia, and the United States appear to have excluded Britain permanently from being among the top three.

No single market has emerged to take the dominant place Britain once had. The top three trading partners — Japan, Australia, and the United States — together take 42 per cent of New Zealand's total exports. In 1954, Britain took 67 per cent and in 1964 it was still taking 47 per cent. Today, Japan takes 15 per cent, Australia 14 per cent, and the United States 13 per cent. When the other Pacific countries are considered, none is of outstanding importance to New Zealand's trade. Only the big A.S.E.A.N. grouping reaches 5 per cent.

There have also been great changes in the sources of imports. In 1954, 29 per cent of New Zealand's imports came from the Pacific. By 1984, this had increased to 71 per cent. The growth was steady through the period. In 1954, non-communist Europe supplied 64 per cent of New Zealand's imports (57 per cent coming from Britain); 30 years later, non-communist Europe supplied 22 per cent of New Zealand's imports (9 per cent from Britain).

In 1954, when Britain was taking 67 per cent of New Zealand's exports, it was supplying 57 per cent of New Zealand's imports. In 1984, when Japan, Australia, and the United States took 42 per cent of New Zealand's exports, they supplied 56 per cent of New Zealand's imports.

The trend has been steady and it should be persuasive, particularly in Europe, in demonstrating that New Zealand has gone a long way to enact the advice given when Britain joined the European Economic Community more than a decade ago: do not rely on exports to Europe; diversify your markets. One benefit has been the smoothing out of the effects of economic fluctuations in individual markets. Another has been a greater New Zealand sensitivity to market requirements. The greatest of the benefit of all has been that New Zealand's export trade has survived on a reasonable scale.

NEW ZEALAND

DAILY ON ROLE OF 'CAUCUS HARDLINERS' IN SHIPS ISSUE

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 2 Feb 85 p 6

["Politics" column by J.F. Roughan: "Caucus Hardliners Win Day on Ships Issue"]

[Text]

At the beginning of a year in which the Government faces a battle to convince its own party of the merits of an entire economic strategy it could have been suicidal to open a second front on something as dear to Labour as the nuclear-free zone.

By the end of this week it was clear that no such risk would be taken.

Just about all the plans the Prime Minister, Mr Lange, may have entertained for accommodating a nuclear-capable United States warship in March dissipated in the heat generated by party rank-and-file in the past 10 days.

It was a subtle pressure — mainly telegrams, letters and public declarations of support for the unadulterated policy banning anything that might bear nuclear weaponry — but at a crucial stage there was also some less delicate arm-twisting from dissidents in the Government caucus.

Together, their effect was probably more persuasive than any attempts by the Anzus partners in recent weeks to bring New Zealand to heel.

***Ramifications
Of Letter***

Ironically, the clumsiness of the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, last week in publicly releasing the contents of a letter to Mr Lange may have done more than anything else to tip the balance against the visit of the warship.

The reason is not so much a public resentment of any Australian interference in this country's dealings with Washington. It is rather that at the point the Hawke message was released the New Zealand Government had been doing, intentionally or not, exactly what Mr Hawke proposed.

The substance of the Hawke letter was a declaration that Australia could not accept different conditions placed on United States warship visits by New Zealand from those imposed by Australia.

Australia accepted the United States' right to neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons on its ships and so should New Zealand.

Australia avoided any official public statements which cast doubt on whether the United States was applying that policy of non-disclosure and so should New Zealand.

Last week, when the existence of the United States request for a March

visit was leaked, it quickly became clear to close observers that the New Zealand Government was not going to seek a United States assurance on the vessel's weaponry.

With Mr Lange out of touch in the Tokelaus, the Acting Prime Minister, Mr Palmer, carefully stated that New Zealand would make its own evaluation of the ship's armaments, based on the known capabilities of the particular ship, the expertise of our military intelligence and our analysis of the likelihood of certain ships operating in the South Pacific being nuclear armed.

Within days the telegrams were flowing and the nuclear hardliners in the caucus were knocking on ministerial doors.

They insisted that the party policy banning port visits by nuclear-armed vessels had always demanded a change in the United States policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons.

It had always been understood by Mr Lange, Mr Palmer and the rest of the party's policymakers that

the nuclear weapons ban could not accommodate the United States insistence on non-disclosure, they said.

When Mr Lange returned to Wellington on Monday he found his cabinet unwilling to decide the issue on the basis of advice from New Zealand's military and external intelligence resources.

Pressure Had Its Effects

Looking a bit more worried and weary than could be explained by an early morning journey from the Pacific, Mr Lange announced that day that he would deal further with the Americans.

The Government still would not ask the United States to relent on the policy of non-disclosure but it had to be "absolutely certain" by whatever means that a visiting ship was not carrying nuclear arms.

In an obvious message to a nervous party, Mr Lange told his press conference: "People will have to rely on my skill

and judgment, my conscience. I have very few burning convictions in political life and being opposed to nuclear armaments escalation and their existence is one of them."

Some members of his caucus believe that, but for the pressure applied over that weekend, Mr Lange would have made quite a different announcement on Monday.

But that is to give Mr Lange less than his due. While his differences with the party's nuclear line have been well-documented, they have always been confined to the issue of nuclear-fuelled craft.

He distinguished between the respective dangers of nuclear reactors and nuclear warheads and all the public evidence suggests his opposition to the latter's presence in New Zealand has never wavered.

A more assured caucus gave him an ovation on Thursday when he left them with the clear impression the United States warship visit will be refused.

The caucus hardliners,

in a sense, have prevailed. It will clearly now be practically impossible for the Government to admit a warship capable of firing nuclear weapons unless the public, and particularly the anti-nuclear protest movement, believes without doubt that the Government has an assurance from the United States on the "purity" of its arsenal.

Clearly Mr Lange was a long way from finding such a formula this week.

American Government sources continue to insist their aim is to put absolutely no pressure on the Lange Government. It appears likely that they will continue to file normal warship visit requests in the hope of an understanding with the New Zealand Government.

Despite another public reminder from the American Embassy in Wellington this week that naval access to allied ports was "essential to the continuing effectiveness" of Anzus, Government MPs are confident that no American retaliation will occur.

NEW ZEALAND

SYDNEY PAPER ON COST OF ANTINUCLEAR STAND

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 6 Feb 85 pp 1, 5

[Article by Paul Sheehan]

[Text]

WELLINGTON, Tuesday: The New Zealand Government began to count the cost of its anti-nuclear rhetoric today.

On hearing the news of the Sea Eagle cancellation from Washington, the Prime Minister, Mr Lange, said he expected the US to start reducing defence co-operation and intelligence-sharing with New Zealand as a result of the Government's refusal to admit the USS Buchanan.

On a day that the New Zealand dollar slipped to its lowest ever against the US dollar, there were clear indications that New Zealand leaders now believe the country may pay a price in trade and diplomatic terms that goes well beyond the relatively narrow military confines of ANZUS.

The former chief of New Zealand's Army staff, Major-General Robin Williams, who retired recently, said today: "New Zealand could not gain from the Government's actions and there will be cause for great regret in the future."

"You can't really isolate the nuclear issue from all the benefits of the alliance," he said.

"In a wider scene, in trade and foreign relations ... I don't think people realise the implication. It's a hard, hard world."

Vice-Admiral Neil Anderson, former Chief of Naval Staff, said: "ANZUS is a bigger and wider issue than people are willing to consider. ANZUS involves inter-government relations on a very wide scale. Defence is not the over-riding issue."

The former head of New Zealand's Security Intelligence Service, Sir William Gilbert, said today the Government's action was "cutting through governments that have taken place since World War II.

"All that has been thrown overboard, despite what politicians say," Sir William said. "I think you've got to take what they say as a very large chunk of rock salt.

"I don't think they are being frank. The loss of all forms of intelligence is really very important."

Sir Richard Bolt, Chief of Defence Staff from 1976 to 1980, said today New Zealand's ability to influence and pressure for a reduction in nuclear arms would be reduced, not enhanced, by the Government's actions.

He could not foresee the ANZUS Alliance surviving in its present form.

Sir Richard said New Zealand would lose the flow of technical information, military intelligence, American equipment and professional expertise from the US and Australia.

He described as "absolute nonsense" claims that having a nuclear-armed ship in port made that port a nuclear target.

"People who say or believe that know very little about military strategy or about the technical aspects of targeting," he said.

Another former Chief of the Defence Staff, Lieutenant-General Sir Leonard Thornton, said: "There has always been a slight tendency

(by Australia and the US) to say that New Zealand takes a free ride and that we expect to do well out of ANZUS, perhaps rather better than the amount of sacrifice we are prepared to make.

"We have benefited greatly from political, economic and military information from the Americans and Australians. It would be tragic if that sort of information was not available to us.

"The critical relationship is between Australia and New Zealand, which is always a shaky do."

The director-general of the New Zealand Manufacturers' Federation, Mr David Walker, said New Zealand's \$500 million trade with US could suffer if Americans perceived New Zealand to be anti-American.

The general manager of the New Zealand Wool Board, Mr Bernie Knowles, said: "Trading relations are always to an extent dependent on the goodwill that exists between the nations concerned and anything which diminishes that goodwill must be cause for concern."

It is believed the Government Caucus was given a warning about possible trade problems with the US by the Minister for Overseas Trade, Mr Moore, last Thursday.

CSO: 4200/686

PHILIPPINES

COLUMNIST ON 'NATIONALISTIC DEBT POLICY'

HK271455 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 27 Mar 85 p 5

["Perspective" Column by Salvador M. Enriquez Jr, President of the National Economic Protectionism Association: "RP's Black Hole and the Need for a Nationalistic Debt Repayment Policy"]

[Text] A black hole, astrophysicists tell us, is a giant star, a phenomenon in our vast universe, which has literally collapsed inwards, punching a "hole" in space and, due to its strong gravitational pull, sucks every matter within its orbit, into its nothingness.

The Philippines has its own black hole: its \$28.5-billion foreign debt. Interest payments alone on this gigantic foreign debt consume nearly half of our export revenues and 10 percent of our national budget. If principal is to be repaid, it will eat up five years of our future total export revenues. Thus, this black hole of a foreign debt sucks up our minerals, our natural resources, the yield of our farms, the fruits of Philippine industry, and the sweat of Filipino labor, both here and abroad.

No wonder then that interest rates are so high, capital so scarce, taxes so onerous, factories idle, and unemployment high. In the language of the economist in the savings-investment cycle, substantial leakage is occurring.

Clearly, the Philippines foreign debt must be renegotiated on a more realistic, more sound basis, with national interest paramount--on "nationalistic" terms if you will--if the economy is to truly recover.

What are the steps that the country should undertake in renegotiating its foreign debt and what are the possible outlines of a nationalistic debt repayment policy?

First, we must declare to the IMF and to our foreign creditors that debt repayment will be done, but not at the expense of our national sovereignty--the right to chart our own economic destiny--and at the cost of continued impoverishment of our people. In the words of nationalist industrialist Hilarion Henares Jr, the principle should be that the loan shall be repaid, but payment shall not come from the food we give our children.

The subservient attitude of technocrats like Cesar Virata and Jose B. Fernandez in negotiating with the IMF should be eliminated and control by the IMF and the World Bank over our monetary and fiscal policymaking should be terminated. We should make clear to the IMF that we are under no obligation to follow its flawed policies (tariff liberalization, tight money, devaluation) and development strategy, which have already exacted their toll on the economy and made us more dependent on outside forces. Rather, we should declare that we shall pursue a course of development that in the long run, will not only guarantee the continued prosperity of our people but also strengthen our capacity to service our debts.

We should make an unequivocal stand for a moratorium on our principal and interest payments for a declared period. The beneficial effects of such a move on the economy is obvious: nearly half of our export revenues will be freed for domestic capital formation and for sourcing those imports that the country badly needs to rebuild its shattered economy. It will enable the government to cut taxes and reflate the economy. At the same time, this will be the opportunity for us to change the colonial, import-export character of our economy and make the leap to a modern self-sufficient, industrial one.

We should demand that the interest rates on our foreign loans should be fixed, rather than floating, and at reasonable terms. Or, at the very least, a "cap" on interest rates should be determined. It is the height of injustice to penalize the Philippines for high interest rates prevailing in the United States, owing mainly to its billion-dollar budget deficits; a situation over which the borrower has no control. The Philippines pays dearly for every percentage increase in the U.S. prime rate: if only half of our foreign debt is on a floating basis, the incremental annual interest payment is around \$150 million, an amount surpassing our total export revenue from bananas.

We should also insist that creditor countries increase their quotas and remove unreasonable restrictions on our exports. Otherwise, we shall be constrained to deliver commodities to our foreign creditors and consider their value offsetted against our loan. It is simply unfair for the foreign banks to demand that we export more when their respective countries are putting up all sorts of trade barriers to imports from developing countries.

Finally, we should repudiate those loans that can clearly be proven to have resulted in the importation of overpriced or obsolete equipment, made with the criminal collusion of the creditor bank or foreign supplier. If possible, we should file the appropriate charges against them in international courts and consider their loans as paid. Otherwise, they should be contented with very long-term bonds; for after all, they have already made usurious and immoral profits.

Can we do it; that is, negotiate our foreign debt on a nationalistic basis?

If we, as a people, show unity and determination, we can. Both Nicaragua and Argentina were able to win concessions from their creditors when they refused to compromise the primacy of their respective national interests. There is no reason why we cannot do the same.

But what if the IMF and our creditor banks play tough and cut us off from all trade financing in retaliation?

First, in late 1983 and 1984, when trade financing was virtually cut off due to the forced moratorium on interest payments, Filipino businessmen ingeniously were able to keep the flow of essential imports coming in, on a pre-paid basis. The drag on the economy was caused less by the absence of imports than by the IMF-imposed policies of steep devaluation, tight money, and higher energy rates. We have shown that we can withstand a shut-off in trade financing; our resiliency can only be enhanced should it occur again because then we will formulate our own economic policies, rather than the IMF's and by then transnational domination of the economy would have been removed through Filipinization.

Second, a decision by the IMF and the creditor banks to harass the Philippines through international legal action and to cut off all trade financing shall be interpreted by us as "an act of war" and we shall proceed to repudiate all loans. The creditor banks will be forced to write-off these loans against their capital, hurting themselves in the process. However, if they are reasonable and agree to negotiate with us, we shall assure them that every cent of those loans will be repaid, and they can continue keeping these loans on their books.

Third, we shall promote countertrade, or the exchange of commodities without the use of international currencies, as a defensive option against a cut-off. No less than a prominent Filipino investment banker has remarked that countertrade is a growing international phenomenon, engaged in by countries such as Brazil and Austria, under the present debt crisis-ridden international climate. Only the IMF and the World Bank, in their desire that the proceeds of every commodity exported must first be applied to our loan repayments, have prevented us from fully exploiting this practice as a means of transcending our present scarcity of foreign exchange.

Other countries, such as China and Iran, have had to suffer embargoes and other forms of harassment at some time in their history. Not only have they survived but they have thrived, and no thanks to the IMF. It is indeed ironical that, in the case of China, the major international banks are now outdoing each other pushing loans to that country.

In the final analysis, can we muster the courage to stand up to the IMF and our international creditors? The country's black hole--its gigantic foreign debt--is sucking the economy dry. With the IMF dictating the policies, the economy is bound to get worse, and not better. The courage will come, because, simply, for us as a people there is no other choice.

CSO: 4200/709

PHILIPPINES

BUSINESS DAY ON WESTERN FINANCIAL 'DICTATORSHIP', SAUDIS

HK281423 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 28 Mar 85 p 4

["Bottom Line" Column by Gaby Manalat: "A Favor From Saudi Arabia"]

[Text] I think the best news we have had in a long time is the reluctance of Saudi Arabia's National Commercial Bank [NCB] to join the consortium of creditor banks that is packaging the restructuring of our country's foreign debt.

The NCB wants a bilateral arrangement with the Philippines in restructuring our \$150 million or so debt and is willing to give us another \$12 million under such an arrangement. But the consortium is strongly against such a two-way negotiation and prefers that all major creditors band together: one for all, all for one.

This is the first time that any major creditor bank has refused to toe the consortium's line and this recalcitrance is probably viewed as a threat to the West's domination of world finance. After all, if the IMF-influenced cartel of creditor banks can no longer speak as one, as the world's monetary god, their power to exploit Third World countries will be diluted substantially.

In effect, a breakup of the consortium will leave the IMF virtually powerless since it will no longer be able to enforce its prescriptions so long as one or any number of creditor banks bypass it for direct negotiations with the creditor countries. The IMF and its cohorts will then find themselves in much the same quandary that threatens OPEC. Each member will try to get the best deal for itself and in the process will share the profits of all.

I think Saudi Arabia is playing a very clever game. If its influence (through OPEC) on world trade and finance has been weakened by disunity among major Middle East oil producers, it is not about ready to allow Western banks free rein of the financial playground. By weakening the IMF-LED consortium, Saudi Arabia can neutralize the West's advantage, which may in turn result in a realignment of currency values and trade positions.

As far as we are concerned, nothing too bad can come of this new wrinkle in our debt restructuring efforts. Hopefully, we have just about hit bottom

and no matter whether there is a world boom or recession, we cannot do any worse anyway.

On the contrary, we may have everything to gain if our restructuring package does not go through because of the NCB's recalcitrance. We have already showed our creditors that we were willing to go along with their prescription, however suicidal it may have been. So as far as good faith is concerned, we can claim a big bold "A" for effort.

That being the case and since we may have to negotiate singly with all our creditors, we can then wheel and deal concessions that can contribute directly to domestic productivity. It is not improbable, for instance, that we can convince some of our creditors to accept payment in kind, which the IMF is vehemently against, but which not only can expand domestic production but could also establish new markets for Philippine goods and commodities.

Moreover, we will likely be able to wrangle trade concessions from the governments of our creditor banks on the simple rationale that the stronger our foreign trade, the better our chances of repaying our debts.

But best of all, we will no longer be bludgeoned into accepting credit and monetary prescriptions of the IMF which are evidently designed to make us, and the rest of the Third World, incapable of challenging and threatening the stability of the First World's economic prosperity.

If Prime Minister Cesar Virata and Central Bank Governor Jose B. Fernandez must be in New York to straighten out this so-called wrinkle in our debt-restructuring negotiations, I propose that they be instructed instead to secretly support the NCB's position and make sure that the Saudi Arabians do not bow to the consortium's pressures.

The Philippines today is bankrupt financially and morally and this eventually gives us the best opportunity to rebuild our economy without fear of incurring the IMF's wrath. There is a chink in the armor of Western financial dictatorship and the Philippines could play hero, along with Saudi Arabia, in establishing a new relationship between East and West.

We have too long been a whipping boy of the United States, Japan, and even now Australia. Going the IMF way is a betrayal of our children's future. Now is the time to take a chance especially when we have nothing to lose.

CSO: 4200/709

PHILIPPINES

IMF ASKS MANILA FOR END-MARCH ECONOMIC DATA

HK281433 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 28 Mar 85 p 3

[Text] The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has required the Philippine Government to submit the end-March economic and financial data to complete the IMF's first review of the country's economic adjustment program, according to Prime Minister Cesar Virata.

Virata also told BUSINESS DAY that the level of the reserve money so far is the sole IMF performance criterion that the government risks exceeding. He expressed optimism, however, that the March 31 reserve money target of P [Pesos] 31 billion will still be met. Under the IMF's and the government's definition of the end-March target, the reserve money--which determines total liquidity--must average P31 billion during the five business days before and the five business days after March 31.

The latest CB [Central Bank] data indicates that the reserve money level stood at P32.88 billion as of March 15. While this level appears to be way off the P31-billion target, the CB's data in past months would indicate that it is capable of siphoning off as much as P2 billion from the money supply in only two weeks' time.

In the past, complete economic and financial figures have been made available only at least two weeks after a certain date. The IMF's requirement that the government first submit the end-March data makes it definite that the completion of the review can be undertaken only at the earliest by April.

The completion of the review is a necessary requirement before the government can draw on the second tranche of the IMF standby facility, which is supposed to be due this week, or three months after the first drawdown on the facility last December 23.

The five-man IMF mission left the country last weekend, although one IMF executive, David Burton, stayed behind to continue analyzing the data so far provided by the government. BUSINESS DAY sources in government disclosed the detailed quarterly targets for the rest of the standby arrangement period; however, they have still not been completed. Another requirement for the completion of the IMF review--a program for the restructuring of the agricultural sector to be agreed upon with the World Bank--also has so far not been met.

One target under the IMF program which the government will definitely not be able to comply with by the end of this month is the payment of about \$2.4 billion in foreign arrears, or the country's foreign obligations that have fallen due since about a month before the moratorium was declared last year. CB sources, however, claimed that the IMF will not rule that the non-compliance with this performance criterion constitutes substantial violation of the standby arrangement since the settlement of the arrears were premised on the release of the first drawdown on the new money from commercial banks within the first quarter.

The finalization of the syndicated loan from the commercial banks as well as the installation of the revolving trade facility have been indefinitely postponed. The delay arose from the refusal of the National Commercial Bank (NCB) of Saudi Arabia to participate in the syndication being organized by the international advisory committee. The committee had decided that it can pursue the finalization of the accords only when the NCB either participates in the syndication or agrees to a bilateral agreement with the Philippine Government which will, in substance, be similar to the terms of the syndication.

Two different interpretations over the delays in the finalization of the financial rescue package have been advanced.

CSO: 4200/709

PHILIPPINES

MARCOS ORDERS PAYMENT OF 10 PERCENT PAY HIKE

HK021216 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 1100 GMT
2 Apr 85

[Text] President Marcos today directed the immediate payment of the 10 percent across-the-board salary increases to all government employees. The increase is retroactive to January 1st this year. That report from Bert Asuge:

[Begin recording] The president issued the order following the submission of guidelines by the Office of Budget and Management implementing Executive Order No 1000 issued last January 25. The order authorized a two-step salary increase in the basic salary rates of all government officials, including heads of state universities and colleges, contractual, temporary, emergency, and casual employees. The president said the payment of the salary increases, involving some 1.6 billion pesos, to more than 1.2 million employees was delayed because the Office of Budget and Management had been preparing the guidelines. The increases were ordered by the president to enable the people to cope with high prices and to promote quality and efficiency in the public service. He said that although the inflation has declined, government workers have been finding it hard to beat the rising cost of living, citing in particular those whose wages are much less than those in the private sector.

In the guidelines prepared by Budget Minister Manuel Alba, it was specified that the salary increases for local government employees would depend on the availability of their funds. The increases would be based on the basic salaries received by employees as of December 31, 1984, inclusive of merit increases granted on or before that date, but exclusive of incentive pay, transportation, cost-of-living allowances, bonus, honorarium, or any other benefits. Government corporations may use corporate funds to grant salary raises. [End recording]

CSO: 4200/727

16 April 1985

PHILIPPINES

DECEASED MUSLIM ASSEMBLYMAN'S SUPPORTERS SUSPECT FOUL PLAY

Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 9 Feb 85 p 3

[Article by Jam Maridul]

[Text] Marawi City--Members of the Muslim community mourning the death of Batasan speaker protempore Salipada Pendatun have called for an "exhaustive investigation" of the cause of his death.

Pendatun died several days after figuring in a car accident last Jan 23 in Quezon City.

The call was made by various speakers during a prayer rally organized by former Sen Domocao Alonto and various Islamic organizations and colleges held at the Mindanao Islamic Center here last Feb 3.

Rally participants and speakers expressed doubt on the circumstances surrounding the death of the Muslim leader, citing three reasons:

--Muslim leaders from Mindanao were not allowed to visit Pendatun at the Philippine Heart Center for Asia even after attending physicians pronounced him out of danger;

--The part of the car which was most severely damaged was where Pendatun was seated at the time of the accident; and

--No autopsy was taken to determine the cause of his death.

The speakers raised the possibility that Pendatun might have been the target of some parties offended by his recent call for the revamp of the whole military set-up in the Zamboanga City-based South Command and his expose of military atrocities in Mindanao.

They also said that the late solon's insistence on the full implementation of the Tripoli Agreement might have incurred the ire of some segments of the political leadership.

The late solon had figured in two violent incidents immediately before the declaration of martial law: the ambush of the car he was riding in and the massacre at Plaza Miranda.

They noted that in both incidents, the perpetrators of the crime remain unpunished.

On the same occasion, the Jamiatul Philippine Al-Islamic, the largest Islamic institution of learning in Mindanao and the Jamieo Mindanao Al Islamic, conferred upon the late leader a posthumous award in recognition of his colorful career and exemplary services to the nation.

In granting the award, the Board of Trustees of the Islamic college through special resolution said speaker Pandatun had distinguished himself as a leader not only of the Muslims but of the Filipino people endowed with rare qualities of statesmanship, courage and complete devotion to the cause of his people.

Pendatun was a senatorial candidate in the 1971 elections under the ticket of the Liberal Party.

Meanwhile, Jimmy Semana, president of the Mindanao Press and Radio-TV Association in a press statement said Pendatun's death is a deep loss to the cause of Muslim-Christian unity and in upholding the cause of democracy.

Citing the late solon as a forceful and effective voice of Mindanao, Semana said his legislative records and his exemplary conduct as a public servant should inspire the present leaders of Mindanao to follow the ideals of the late leader.

The Muslim-Christian Movement for Peace, Justice and Freedom, a cause-oriented organization based in Iligan City, said that Pendatun "will be remembered for his fearless espousal of the full and strict implementation of the Tripoli Agreement."

The movement also called for an honest-to-goodness inquiry into the cause of the car collision that triggered the death of the Muslim leader.

CSO: 4200/695

16 April 1985

PHILIPPINES

MANILA COLUMNIST REPORTS KHOMEYNI AGENTS' ACTIVITIES

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 9 Feb 85 p 6

[Article by Jesus Bigornia]

[Excerpt] Evidently, lessons taught by the Trojan War are embedded deeply in Persian perception. Latter-day Persians--the Iranians--appear to be quite adept at the use of the Trojan Horse technique to wiggle their way into the good graces of races they would bring into the fold of Islam. And unsuspecting Filipinos need to be warned against "Greeks bearing gifts." As the local Iranian Muslims appear to be doing--extending the hand of friendship through the medium of the so-called 10-K marathon race Sunday.

It must be recalled that Khomeini agents masquerading as students have long reviled not only the government but also the people of the Philippines, branding the present administration as one of crooks and the people prostitutes. In pamphlets and leaflets distributed chiefly among the studentry of Mindanao, the so-called Iranian Muslim students of the Philippines have similarly assailed the government, even calling for Filipino Muslims to rise up in arms against the duly constituted authorities.

CSO: 4200/695

PHILIPPINES

PRO-MARCOS COLUMNIST HITS SLOW REACTION TO INSURGENCY

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 15 Feb 85 p 6

[Commentary by Apolonio Batalla: "For a Solution to Insurgency"]

[Text] As the parties gird themselves for the political showdown they do not appear to be concerned with the problem of rebellion even as the problem continues to exact a heavy cost from the nation.

Sometimes we wish the leaders of the opposing parties would come together and map out a common plan for resolving the conflict. But it seems the President is confident that his administration can ultimately lick the insurgents, and it seems that the opposition leaders believe that the problem is the worry of the administration alone.

Sometimes we think the political leaders believe the problem is not so serious as to claim their attention. But if the estimate of the Defense Minister that the number of active insurgents grew by 23 percent last year is correct, the problem needs more than passing consideration.

The problem is more fundamental than what most people think. In the first place, it claims a vast amount of government resources--money that would otherwise go to productive enterprises or which if not spent would ease up the fight against inflation.

Secondly, the problem tends to change the face of the countryside, because it kills and threatens people, hamper their livelihood, and deter investment in agriculture and industry in the remote areas.

If the problem threatens the integrity of the nation, it imperils the political parties themselves. But maybe this is not apparent to the parties, which seem to be Manila-oriented for the reason that the leaders are based in Manila.

Actually, that orientation has existed for a long time. It was on account of the centralization of the party leadership that Mindanao had been neglected for many years. The neglect led to the rising of the MNLF. The poverty of the Muslim population gave valid grounds for secession.

The Manila orientation of the parties, long before the 1970's, explained the neglect of the depressed provinces of the Visayas. In later years, this neglect was manifested in the fierce rising on Samar island.

Through the years the most important political leaders neglected their respective provinces because they were living most of the time in Manila. The relative unconcern with the insurgency in the provinces must be partly due to this fact. The leaders suffer from the illusion of place--they tend to think that the insurgency in some provinces is not serious because Manila is rebellion-free.

The fundamental character of the problem should tempt the responsible groups to study and formulate their own recommendations. Those groups should include members of the academic community which have turned out fine studies on the significant issues of the day.

The various governmental agencies, church groups and local governments should all be encouraged to make their own studies and recommendations. And when all these studies are in, the political parties, working as a group, should strive to come up with a plan of action.

The resolution of a fundamental problem needs the cooperation of many in order to minimize the costs.

Usually, an insurgency of nationwide proportions is hard to resolve because the antagonists fear loss of face when they are left alone to work out a compromise. Theoretically, if many groups come together to mediate and arbitrate, that obstacle is eliminated.

So far there is no guarantee that if the opposition gains dominance the insurgency will automatically end. So that if it wins it still have to cope with the problem.

On the other hand, we do not think that at the rate the administration is going it can solve the problem in the immediate future, and all the time it feels the onus of the problem.

Delay will be harmful to all.

CSO: 4200/695

PHILIPPINES

TWO STUDENT LEADERS ARRESTED; CRACKDOWN FEARED

Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 14 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Joel C. Paredes]

[Text] The feared crackdown on militant student leaders apparently began yesterday when police authorities took into custody Leandro Alejandro and Jose Virgilio Bautista as they were negotiating on behalf of students marching to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

The arrest of Alejandro and Bautista followed a forcible police dispersal of a large student group on its way to a dialogue with Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

Alejandro, a law student at the University of the Philippines, is executive committee member of the Coalition of Organizations for the Realization of Democracy (CORD) and Bautista is member of the executive committee of the Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Freedom and Democracy (NAJFD).

At 7 last night the two leaders were reported rushed to a Camp Crame detection center from Northern Police District headquarters in Quezon City where NPD chief Brig Gen Alfredo Lim had ordered them confined after their arrest in San Juan at 4:20 p.m.

Malaya later learned that Alejandro and Bautista are being held under a Preventive Detention Action (PDA), a presidential order that authorizes the detention of any person for one year without formal charges.

The PDA on the two leaders, who have been active in protest rallies and demonstrations against the Marcos government, were confirmed by Maj Bienvenido Vibas, NPD intelligence chief.

Lim, apparently angered by Alejandro who tried to convince the police general to allow the march up to Cubao from where they would peacefully disperse, ordered the arrest of Alejandro but soon after changed his mind and shouted: "Hulihin lahat 'yan."

Police grabbed Bautista and Cadar even as Lim also threatened to arrest several journalists from major Manila newspapers. Lim was later pacified by other police officers.

The arrest of Alejandro and Bautista and the Muslim youth, who could not speak Tagalog and English, was immediately condemned by human rights lawyer Joker Arroyo.

He said the military's use of the "revolving door technique is to apply continuous pressure on protest groups and try to neutralize them.

"They (military) agreed to the release of some, like Lino Brocka and Behn Cervantes, and then all of a sudden arrest two others," Arroyo said.

He described this revolving door technique as the method where "persons fighting for democratic causes are pushed in and out of the door like animals."

Arroyo further claimed the military never learns its lessons saying "the only thing they know is to use force and scare tactics."

He warned that this hardline policy would further solidify the militant protest groups in their efforts to push legitimate causes.

Arroyo also said Quezon City police turned over the two leaders and Cadar to the Special Operations Group of the PC Metrocom but the Metrocom-SOG returned them to the NPD investigators leading Arroyo to speculate the three have not violated any national security law. He added there appeared to be no mission order for their arrest.

The SOG is in charge of investigating national security cases.

Arroyo also pointed out police may have committed a penal offense when they arrested the three and dispersed the student marchers inside a private compound.

He cited two sections of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution which the police and military may have violated--section 3 guaranteeing the right of the people to be secured in their persons and houses against unreasonable search and section 5 which states that the "liberty of abode shall not be impaired."

Alejandro and Bautista rushed out of a meeting at the headquarters of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, also along N. Domingo, and were trying to convince Lim to a negotiation or a dialogue with the marchers when they were arrested.

The students had marched from Morayta in the University Belt at 3 p.m. and were marching towards Camp Aguinaldo to seek a dialogue with Enrile and denounce alleged student repression in campuses.

The dialogue with Enrile, it was learned later, was set for Feb 17 and Lim declared the students march illegal because of this.

Manila Police led by Col Edgar de la Torre had tailed the students and kept their distance until the marchers reached the Pepsi Cola compound on Aurora Boulevard.

Then, a pill box bomb exploded after which students said the police suddenly lobbed tear gas bombs to disperse them.

The marchers rushed inside the RVM Sister's convent on N. Domingo which also houses the TFDP offices. It was then that Bautista and Alejandro, who were attending a meeting, rushed outside.

CSO: 4200/695

PHILIPPINES

PROVINCIAL COMMANDER THREATENS TO SHOOT NPA SUSPECTS

Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 15 Feb 85 p 2

[Article by Greg Refraccion]

[Text] Samal, Bataan--Residents of this town were warned by a Constabulary provincial commander that suspected members of the New People's Army will be shot.

Col Jose Andaya, Bataan PC provincial commander, told barangay captains in a "dialogue" held at the town hall recently that they "mean business" and will shoot any suspected NPAs.

During the same dialogue, a Capt Reynaldo Diosomito of the 8th Marine Battalion Landing Team based in Culis, Hermosa challenged the barangay captains to choose between the NPA and the government.

Diosomito was quoted as having said: "Kailangan ipakita ninyo kung saan at ano talaga kayo, sa pula o puti. Kung sa puti, magsama tayo, kung sa pula maglaban tayo. Iyan talaga ang hanap namin." (You have to show who or where you really are with, red or white. If white, we are together, if red, we are enemies. That's what we want).

In the dialogue, Gov Efren B. Pascual also urged residents to cooperate with the military in order that peace and harmony will reign in the community.

Samal has been described by the military as a hotbed of dissidents. Military operations are often conducted there by both the Constabulary and Marines.

A full Marine detachment had been established in barangay San Juan of this town in September as part of the effort to arrest reported growing NPA activities.

The towns people have been circulating petitions to pull out the Marines from San Juan, yet military men continue to conduct operations to allegedly flush out suspected NPAs.

Meanwhile, government expenses for civic action programs carried out by the military and civilian government agencies must undergo strict auditing by Deputy Defense Minister Jose M. Crisol yesterday.

The audit will ensure that the full benefits of the civic action programs go to the people.

The essence of the national civic action program, Crisol said, is to develop closer and friendly relations among the local residents and the government.

"The misconduct of a few men in uniform will put to waste all the good public works projects of the government," he added.

Crisol noted that the implementation of the civic action program must be accompanied by a "strong sense of discipline on the part of the soldiers and the civilian government personnel involved."

Crisol made the remarks in a speech before officials of the military, public works and highways ministry, and local governments ministry attending a seminar on the implementation of the national civic action program.

CSO: 4200/696

PHILIPPINES

FURTHER DETAILS, COMPARISON OF BALWEG RAID ACCOUNTS

Cordiality Reported

Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 15 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Baguio City--Some 200 communist rebels aided by about 400 G-stringed tribal warriors overwhelmed the Mountain Province town of Sadanga, occupied it for over 12 hours and held a teach-in for the townspeople, it was reported by a human rights group and the Philippine News Agency yesterday.

Travellers from the area were quoted as saying the raiders were led by renegade Roman Catholic priest Conrado Balweg who carries a P200,000 prize on his head.

The Cordillera People's Alliance said the New People's Arm (NPA) guerrillas and the Botbot tribesmen surrounded the townhall at 3 a.m. Saturday Feb 9 and disarmed 35 soldiers, policemen and militia to collect 44 firearms, grenades and a quantity of ammunition.

The PNA said the raid, one of the most spectacular by rebels in recent years, was confirmed by the Constabulary Regional Command and that Command information officer Maj Marbin Concha also said that Fr Balweg was believed to have led the raid.

The nine-hour teach-in was held at the town plaza from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during which the rebels told the Sadanga residents the raid was primarily to collect arms.

They gave assurance that soldiers, police and officials have nothing to fear if they have no record of acts against the people.

A small military reinforcement unit suffered the lone casualty when a soldier died after their jeep fell down a ravine on the way to Sadanga.

The human rights group said that after the meeting, "there was shaking of hands between the NPA's and the people including the captured town defenders consisting of five constabularymen, six policemen and 24 militiamen."

The guerrillas also seized a telescope, a radio set and some office equipment; the reports said.

Soldiers have been sent to pursue the raiders but no contact have yet been reported.

Ransacking, Human Shields Cited

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 15 Feb 85 p 8

[Text] Some 600 New People's Army (NPA) rebels led by priest Conrado Balweg swooped down on the town of Sadanga, Mt Province, last Monday, disarmed and hogtied policemen, Constabulary troopers, and militiamen, then looted the municipal hall of firearms, office equipment and other valuables.

A belated report submitted by Brig Ten Tomas Dumpit, Regional Unified Command 1 commander, to Lt Gen Fidel V. Ramos, acting Armed Forces chief of staff, said some 600 NPA rebels started infiltrating the town proper early evening of Sunday.

The rebels surprised members of the Integrated National Police and Civilian Home Defense Force who were then at their houses, and disarmed them one by one.

The policemen and CHDFs were hogtied and herded into the town plaza. Members of their families were also reportedly hogtied away from the former.

At daybreak the following day, the provincial commander's report said, the main bulk of the NPA moved in and subjected the municipal building to heavy firing.

A PNA report said no shot was fired as the Sadanga folk had persuaded the troopers not to fight back.

Because of the NPA's superiority in manpower and arms, the PC, INP, and CHDFs in the townhall sought cover as they could not return fire because the wives and families of the policemen and militiamen previously hogtied were used as cover by the invaders.

The PC, INP and CHDF men in the town hall surrendered after six hours of exchange of fire. They were undressed and hogtied.

Fr Balweg then reportedly gathered the residents for a meeting at the municipal hall while the other rebels ransacked the town hall.

CSO: 4200/696

PHILIPPINES

TAGALOG BROADCAST REPORTS REBEL ENCOUNTERS

HK250857 Dagupan City DZDL Radio in Tagalog 0445 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Eighteen NPC rebels and three MNLF terrorists were killed and four others have been arrested in separate encounters in Davao during the past few days, according to a report received from Camp Aguinaldo. Last Tuesday a joint team of CHDF [Cvillian Home Defense Forces] and PC [Philippine Constabulary] men raided the house of a certain Renato (Capindig) which was being used as a safe-house by the NPA. Five rebels were killed in a 30-minute shoot-out. One of those killed was known as (Salud Capindig), three were known as Andy, Mario, and Nelson, and the fifth victim was unknown. Found in the house were a .45 caliber revolver a .38 caliber revolver, a .22 caliber magnum revolver, a 5.66 caliber pistol, and a homemade pistol. Also found were one grenade, one bladed weapon, and assorted ammunition. Subversive documents were found showing NPA plans to attack the government center of Prosperidad Town.

In Davao Oriental, 3 MNLF men were killed and 4 were wounded in an encounter with elements of the 438th Constabulary Company headed by Capt (Juanito) Serrano at Barangays (Sugod, Macangaw, Magsaysay and Lupon). The rebels killed included Comanders (Aga Gaselong, Amir Lopisong and Antai Lopisong). Soldiers confiscated some guns.

In Davao City, two NPA men were killed by the Davao Metrodiscom [Metropolitan District Command] and the 2d Marine Brigade during an encounter in Barangay Bago Galera, Toril District.

CSO: 4211/45

PHILIPPINES

OPPOSITION COLUMNIST ON MILITARY ACADEMY PROTESTS

HK261509 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 26 Mar 85 pp 4, 5

["My Cup of Tea" Column by Ninez Cacho-Olivares: "The Need to Listen"]

[Text] Something out of the ordinary occurred in Baguio recently. Over the weekend, it was reported that the alumni of the Philippine Military Academy marched in front of the grandstand of Fort Del Pilar during the alumni homecoming last Thursday, carrying with them streamers demanding "unity and reforms, dignity and honor." Per reports, these words on the streamers were the "allowable final wording." The alumni must have wanted to carry streamers with a stronger message.

Manifestos, purportedly coming from two different groups in the military establishment, were circulated to ranking military officers and the media. Their main complaints were reportedly against favoritism in the choice of assignments and against some senior officers in the establishment who have enriched themselves under "questionable circumstances," some of whom were described as "living beyond their means, acquiring mansions, palatial homes and the like." There were also charges that all talk of unity and of instituting reforms would remain meaningless "unless many senior commanders were awakened and redeemed themselves." Other reports said that a particular group called for the "elimination of undersirables in the Armed Forces, the restoration of camaraderie and esprit de corps...and the redirecting of the senior military officers' personal loyalty to the Constitution."

It is quite unusual for men in uniform to publicly demand unity and reforms, dignity and honor, since these are revered traditions in the military establishment. There is obviously disenchantment and demoralization felt by some officers. They mourn the loss of these revered traditions and through meaningful reforms, they hope to restore that honor and dignity that were once identified with the uniform.

Why has it come to this? Why even speak of redirecting personal loyalty? A professional soldier's loyalty is never to an individual. If this loyalty is to a person, then he is not serving the country, but the individual, and the individual is never the Republic nor the country nor the nation.

The loyalty of men in uniform must always be to the Republic. All soldiers know that. But perhaps, things are not what they used to be. Perhaps, for some senior officers, loyalty to an individual is more important because it is more rewarding--career-wise and income-wise--hence, this call for a redirection of loyalties.

It was not too long ago when the citizenry was jolted by the publication of a manifesto, signed by the flag officers, declaring their unwavering loyalty and their unqualified and total support for their chief of staff, General Fabian Ver. How could the military elite have forgotten that their loyalty is never with an individual or individuals? I thought that something was very wrong indeed.

But there are more demands and more charges. Why do some officers in the establishment feel that promotions are not dependent on merit but on patronage--and these groups, perhaps more than anybody else, know that mere talk of reforms in the military is meaningless?

Indeed, the complete refurbishing of the image of the military establishment has been long overdue. It is no longer sufficient for some senior military officers to just claim that there are only a few bad eggs in the military and that criticisms leveled against the military are nothing but a sustained black propaganda effort done in order to erode the people's faith in the institution. No amount of government propaganda can erase the discontent and demoralization being experienced by some uniformed men.

What logical reason is there, for instance, to retain senior extender officers indefinitely? Surely, within the establishment, there are very competent professional soldiers who can take over and do the same jobs assigned to their superiors. Surely, these extender officers are not indispensable. Why does it seem so difficult for Mr Marcos to retire these extender officers and give their positions to other deserving officers?

But even if some of these officers voluntarily resign and are retired from the service, will the deserving junior officers be promoted to such positions based on merit or will other officers, with nothing going for them except closeness, devotion and loyalty to the powers that be, step into the shoes of their former patrons? If this will be the case, then nothing substantial will be achieved. All we will have is, as in the past, a mere change of faces.

Once again, personal loyalties will be an overriding factor. These new officers will then put in their favorite junior officers and promote them, even if they are underserving. One will shield and protect the other and the whole cycle begins all over again.

There are serious charges that some senior military officers have enriched themselves "under questionable circumstances." It was alleged that some high-ranking officers own mansions and palatial homes. These charges will be denied vehemently. But people do see, with their own eyes, that some high-ranking officers do live in style. Years ago, one could hardly see

a high-ranking officer doing his entertaining in luxurious surroundings. These days, it is not unusual to see some lower-grade officers in a five-star hotel, feasting on imported wine and food. And one wonders how these officers can afford to maintain such a lifestyle on their pay. One can always say that their offices foot the bill. Perhaps, But we do have an economic crisis. Surely it is unconscionable for such officers to entertain their guests in such posh places.

People want to see meaningful reforms effected. They want an army made up of professional soldiers whose loyalty is only to the Republic. They do not want to see an all too-powerful army riding roughshod over the rights of the people. They are sick and tired of officers and other government officials enriching themselves at their expense. They want, I would think, to be able to put their trust and faith in the Armed Forces again. They would like to look up to the soldiers with respect and admiration again. But how do officers and soldiers earn the respect of the citizenry when they show arrogance and brute force instead of honor and dignity?

Soldiers are charged in a double-murder case. The highest military official is charged as an accessory. Not one has even offered to resign his commission. It is not a question of guilt or innocence. It is a question of delicadeza. It is a question of honor. Of dignity.

There is need to bring back honor and dignity in the military establishment. There is need for redirection of loyalties. There is need for real reforms in the military establishment. Reforms are possible but the leaders must sincerely take a long look at themselves, listen attentively, face the problem squarely and do whatever is necessary to bring back honor, dignity and respect.

CSO: 4200/709

PHILIPPINES

EDITORIAL ON YOUNG JUNIOR OFFICERS' GRIEVANCES

HK271459 Manila TIMES JOURNAL in English 27 Mar 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Young AFP Officers Deserve to Be Heard"]

[Text] The Grievances that many AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] officers have been silently harboring all these years finally burst into the open last Thursday.

Hundreds of PMA [Philippine Military Academy] alumni staged a march during their alma mater's homecoming to express their demand for "unity and reforms, dignity and honor" in the AFP's officer corps. The marchers, who conducted their mass action in the orderly and gentlemanly fashion typical of PMA graduates, were mostly lieutenants, captains and majors. These are precisely the officers who bear the brunt of keeping the military machinery functioning. They make up the bulk of the AFP's professional hard core who, as it were, do the dirty work. Perhaps more than any other group within the military, these men have first-hand knowledge of what currently ails the country's armed forces.

Among the complaints raised were the favoritism and high living practiced by certain top brass, whom the protesters discreetly chose not to identify. Nevertheless, these junior officers are only too aware how these two problems have spawned an even bigger and graver problem--the sagging morale of the entire AFP. They pointed out that low morale has significantly blunted the armed forces' fighting edge.

The example set by senior officers is particularly crucial in areas where soldiers often find themselves in combat situations against insurgents. The abusive acts and ostentatious lifestyle of corrupt senior officers tend to confirm the enemy's portrayal of the AFP as an "anti-people, parasitic" organization which behaves more like an army of occupation than an army of the Republic. We would not be surprised if some junior officers are sorely tempted to believe the rebels propaganda.

Fortunately for us, the country can still depend on a large body of conscientious and dedicated officers who have retained the idealism that the PMA had imbued them with. But for how long?

The level of morale in the AFP--in any organization for that matter--is in direct proportion to the quality of its leadership. The lack of exemplary leadership, on the other hand, can be likened to rust which almost imperceptibly but surely weakens the entire structure. Unless checked immediately, this loss of faith and confidence will eventually cause the entire establishment to collapse.

As future top commanders of the AFP, those protesting junior officers obviously know only too well that rust never sleeps. Correcting the faults in the AFP's organizational structure must be done now. And any honest-to-goodness rectification movement within the armed forces should give serious consideration to the observations of those professional officers who must have deliberated long and hard before staging a protest action on the hallowed grounds of their own alma mater.

CSO: 4200/709

PHILIPPINES

SIX PERSONS DIE IN VIOLENT MINDANAO INCIDENTS

HK020702 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 1 Apr 85

[Text] Six persons were killed and several others were wounded in separate incidents during the past three days in Mindanao. Three of the fatalities were killed in an ambush by NPA terrorists in Barangay Binaton in Digos, Davao del Sur. Only one of the dead was identified as Lumigaw. Six others were wounded. The victims reportedly included Barangay officials.

Three other persons were shot dead Sunday in their residences by unidentified gunmen in Zamboanga City. The fatalities were identified as Mohammed, (Hanja), and Indanan, all surnamed Bandugas. In Barangay Tigbanwang in Upper Tungawan, Zamboanga del Sur, several persons were injured when unidentified persons lobbed a grenade at a passenger bus. Among those seriously wounded was the bus driver, Alfredo Tabuli.

A PC [Philippine Constabulary] soldier was killed when one of the killers of municipal Mayor Federico Cua of Javier Town [province unnamed] was captured in a running gunbattle between pursuing government troops and communist dissidents. Col Jose Lopez, the PC-INP [Integrated National Police] regional commander however withheld the identities of the government fatality and the captured dissident pending the outcome of an ongoing manhunt launched by the military authorities. Lopez said the government side inflicted many casualties on the terrorist group, shown by bloodstains found along the escape route of the fleeing NPC band.

CSO: 4200/727

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

MEASURES TO CURB LABOR UNREST--Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said constructive measures must be used to curb labor unrest. Minister Enrile said [words indistinct] hard-line measures because most workers are [words indistinct]. The defense chief spoke before members of the personnel management association of the Philippines at the Manila Peninsula Hotel. Enrile said, "We cannot condone any [word indistinct] of subversives in labor affairs that will endanger industrial stability and, for that matter, national security. While we must do all we can to protect the rights and privileges of our workers agreements, we are equally responsible for protecting our society from disorder, lawlessness, and anarchy." [Text] [Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 1400 GMT 28 Mar 85]

GOVERNMENT-BUSINESS DIALOGUE URGED--Labor Minister Blas Ople has called for a constant dialogue between the government and private business sector to assure an unhampered national economic recovery in the forthcoming months. He also urged Chinese industrialists and businesses in the Philippines to help in hastening the country's economic recovery. Ople made the call at the 15th convention of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines at the Century Park Sheraton. Ople told the convention that the economic recovery of the country needs the full attention of the economic and business leaders. He expressed confidence that it will not take long before the Filipino people will be lifted from their economic difficulties. [Text] [Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 1100 GMT 1 Apr 85 HK]

FOREIGN 'MEDDLING' IN AGRAVA BOARD--On the Aquino-Galman murder case, a defense counsel today bared foreign intervention in the Agrava fact-finding board. In an interview, Dean Antonio Coronel, lawyer of General Fabian Ver, said that an American Embassy official was seen at a closed-door investigation of the Agrava board. That report from Mars Encarnacion: [Begin recording] Coronel said this is blatant meddling by a foreigner in the internal affairs of the nation. He said he found this [word indistinct] from Rizbonric Sicat, a neighbor of Rolando Galman, who testified at a closed door session of the Agrava board and the Sandiganbayan. Coronel also disclosed that 1 day prior to the announcement of the Agrava Board's [word indistinct], a high official of the United States Embassy and his wife witnessed the showing of a videotape of the Aquino murder case that was taken as evidence. Because of this, Coronel asked for an investigation of the event in relation to discovering this issue. [End recording] [Text] [Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 1100 GMT 2 Apr 85 HK]

LEYTE PAYER DESCRIBES NPA ATTACK--A group of armed men believed to be communist terrorists attacked the PCINP detachment headquarters in Brgy San Andres, three kilometers away from Carbalogan, Samar at about 4:25 this morning, January 8. Police reports claim the dissident elements lobbed a grenade which failed to explode into the detachment headquarters thus enabling the military to determine the position of the enemy and to return fire. The detachment headquarters and the school building were riddled with bullets but there were no casualties on the government side. However, because of traces of profuse blood flow evident in the encounter area, it is believed that some CT's have either been wounded or killed. As gleaned from empty shells recovered, the communist terrorist attack forces were using M16, M79 and M203 weapons. (Sylvia C. Serfino) [Text] [Tacloban City EASTERN VISAYAS MAIL in English 7-13 Jan 85 p 3]

CSO: 4200/688

THAILAND

PAPER VIEWS POSSIBLE U.S. AID TO CAMBODIAN GROUPS

BK230123 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 23 Mar 85 p 4

[Editorial: "New U.S. Twist to Assist Kampuchean Resistance"]

[Text] The decision of the U.S. House of Representatives to give an additional aid of \$5 million to Thailand which in turn will be funnelled across the border to non-communist factions of the Khmer resistance is running into opposition. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs Paul Wolfowitz has testified before the Foreign Relations Subcommittee of the Senate that this may not be accomplish much and many prove "counter-productive."

One of the leading statesmen of Asia, now retired, once said nobody knows how U.S. foreign policy is determined. He said that the White House, the State Department, the Pentagon, the CIA and the Congress try to initiate foreign policy and since none of them agree what comes out is a watered down compromise. The House's move to aid the Khmer resistance has now run into this trouble since the State Department is trying to oppose it.

However, we stated yesterday that the \$5 million aid to the Khmer resistance can only be symbolic and Wolfowitz seems to understand that. He said it is important to send "an appropriate signal of our support for non-communists" in the Khmer resistance movement. But if we read State Department policy into what Wolfowitz told the Senate subcommittee, it appears it does not understand what the House is trying to do.

Since \$5 million is just a drop in the bucket of what the Khmer resistance needs, Rep Stephen Solarz, who spearheaded the move in the House, is right in saying that the U.S. must show by some [preceding word in italics] material assistance that it is vehemently against the occupation of Kampuchea by Vietnam. Wolfowitz concedes this point by saying that the U.S. must send an appropriate signal but he is also trying to put the cart before the horse.

He wants to spend the money in training non-communist Kampuchean refugees in various skills so that they will be able to staff key positions in their country when the Vietnamese leave or are beaten back. But the point that these Khmers should be trained in various skills has only importance if they can go back and help governing their country. So the primary importance is to get the Vietnamese out at some future date.

The administration of President Ronald Reagan, while strongly supporting the non-communist resistance in Kampuchea and the ASEAN stand, has done nothing concrete to justify its statements. We have suspected for a long time that the U.S. feels that China alone will be able to control the Kampuchean situation while ASEAN will be able to drum up international diplomatic support.

This appears clear from what Wolfowitz has said: "Without going into classified information here, I just note that we believe that adequate weapons are available for the resistance through countries of the region." He does not even talk about food or medical supplies. It had been our view that if the U.S. gives this symbolic support to the non-communist Khmer resistance, other countries will follow with money and other forms of aid. But, as we have said earlier, it is anybody's guess what the outcome will be when the House's initiative finally takes concrete shape.

CSO: 4200/691

THAILAND

SAIYUT ON WEAPONS NEEDS, U.S. BASES

Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 31 Jan 85 pp 13-18

[Interview with Gen Saiyut Kertphon, former supreme commander]

[Text] [Question] I would like to ask you as one who is intimately familiar with the United States: if a war should break out and Vietnam invaded Thailand, how do you think the United States would help Thailand?

[Answer] Well, we must limit the war. The outbreak of a war between Thailand and Vietnam would depend on the situation that will occur. If the situation is like what it is now, with Vietnam wiping out the resistance and sometimes trespassing on Thai territory intentionally or not--politically they say no--but in reality, it may be so. However, their main purpose is not to destroy us but to suppress the resistance. In such a case, the United States cannot help us other than politically. It will help us with political and humanitarian support. This we can see. There is no problem there. We are happy with that much. This is because I think we should be able to take care of ourselves. Second, if there were what we call a limited war--for example, if Vietnam sent in 5 or 10 divisions of soldiers to put political pressure on us, or something of that sort, if it were only a limited war--if that were all it is--in my view, I believe that we can defend ourselves, and we should demonstrate confidence that we can defend ourselves. And we must be confident that we can defend ourselves. With modern equipment and systems, we would have to know if Vietnam were going to enter our country with 10 divisions, 20 divisions or more, because with such a large number of forces, there would have to be troop movements first. The Vietnamese cannot just do it suddenly. If they were to move their forces from Hanoi, Saigon or anywhere else, all kinds of electronic equipment would let us know. If we didn't know, it would show we are in bad shape. We have adequate equipment ready, so don't worry. But if we didn't know, it would show that we cannot use the equipment to help us deal with it.

For another thing, I believe that the reason Vietnam is able to do what it is doing today is that it is getting support from Russia, approximately \$3-5 million a day. My guess is that Russia is probably telling Vietnam, "We can give you this much. You can do whatever you wish with it." I don't think the Russians control anything. With \$3-5 million a day, this is probably all that the Vietnamese can do. If they want to do anything more than what they are doing now, they must have more support, which I don't believe that the Russians would give them. This is because the Russians themselves are facing several

problems, and probably do not want to see any more problems since the problems that they have now have put them in a bad position already. So this is the limitation that Vietnam faces, except in cases where it wants to paint a different picture, or where we believe empty rumors. With Vietnam's limited support from Russia, and only its present capabilities, if we still cannot defend ourselves, then I would say we are in bad shape. Therefore, according to the strategy of self-defense which I have just mentioned, we don't need military forces from the United States, and there is no way the United States will send us military forces. We should all be assured of this. If this is all the war is, there is no way [that the U.S. would send military forces]. [Now if] a world war breaks out, if the Russians send in their forces, that is another story. If the extent of the war is what we envisage now, the United States would definitely not send their military forces, and we certainly would not want them here. If we brought them in, that would create political problems.

But the kind of support that we want is weapons and war materiel. This is because if we have to fight for months, we must have weapons. What we have now is for training and small-scale fighting. So if we were to really go at it, the most important thing that we must have is a "war reserve." For example, if Vietnam were to fight a war, it must have a "war reserve." We have a "war reserve" but it is limited. We have limited weapons and war materiel. This is our weakness. If that is what the situation were like, I believe the United States would be happy to provide us with weaponry. I have said and I have shown [the U.S.] that if that were the case, then don't just say it. This is because the Thai people are beginning not to trust the United States. When an emergency situation took place they used to deliver artillery to us within 24 hours. This they have done in the past, and they used to deliver tanks in not too much time. But from now on these weapons must be sent to Aranyaprathet, or Pong Nam Ron, or wherever. Therefore, there must be joint logistics planning, and training.

These things used to be very secret. Although the United States' policy is to say they will help us, and our foreign minister and our prime minister also say so, I ask, "How are they going to help?" These kinds of things must be pre-planned. If a situation like this occurred, the things that the United States can help us with are weapons, and they must be provided according to the real situation and not when the fighting starts and, we proceed to tell the U.S. that we need an ammunition factory. That is another matter. That is done to solve a long-term problem, when nothing is going on. We aren't talking about this. This is where the United States can be of real help. This is what we need most.

[Question] Of late, there has been talk about the United States reestablishing bases in Thailand. What is your view on this issue?

[Answer] What are the bases that are located in our country? In the parlance of the man on the street, this means airfields and ports. In other ways, it may not be very clear. The various bases in Thailand, in fact, were built by the United States with our cooperation during the Vietnam war. But according to the agreements, they belong to us. Therefore, now we must hold that there are no United States bases, only ours. This is different from the situation

in the Philippines, where the United States military bases exist because there is a lease agreement at the rate of hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

The problem is that since the bases--the airfields and ports--belong to us, if anything happens, it is up to us as to who uses them. We do not want to call them military bases. We would rather they be called military facilities. For instance, under normal conditions, their airplanes can use our airports, and if our airplanes can use theirs, then there would be no problem. But if a situation like a limited war occurs, the question then arises as to how we are going to use these military facilities to guarantee our own safety. There should not be any limitations, nor reluctance for fear of offending. The only thing we ask is that we not lose our sovereignty. [The bases] should also be useful in the defense of our country.

Now, if we were to ask the United States back in to reestablish bases--I think that would be impossible. It would bring back the former days when the bases were driven out. There is no way that could happen, because these things all belong to the Thais. The question now is, what do we let them to use these facilities for? If we think it would be beneficial, it should be possible for them to use these facilities. It's a normal thing to do. If it were necessary for their planes to make a stopover for refuelling or if the other side had electronic equipment that enabled it to know what we are doing, then we would want [the U.S.] to come in to check things out for us. This is considered to be in the interest of our nation, and so they should be used to benefit us. But for them to return here to reestablish bases, that is impossible.

12282

CSO: 4207/138

THAILAND

EDITORIAL BLAMES PRK FOR ATTACKS ON THAILAND

Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 22 Jan 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Hopes in Peace"]

[Excerpt] Events in Cambodia--which concerns the fighting between the three party coalition, known as the Khmer Serei, on the one hand and the Heng Samrin regime, on the other--appears to have intensified as expected.

According to reports on the fighting in recent days, the Heng Samrin side has been able to destroy the base at Ampil that belonged to the tripartite coalition, but the Heng Samrin side lost quite a few troops and quite a few weapons.

As a result of such clashes, damage has been done to our country, namely, the Heng Samrin side fired a great number of artillery rounds into our country, forcing us to evacuate the Thais in the affected area to other localities. It has created a burden for the government and suffering for the people in the area, who not only had to go through untold hardship but had also lost their means of making a living. It also appears that the Vietnamese troops, who are the fighting force for the Heng Samrin regime, had intruded into our territory several times. This forced us to repulse them, resulting in damage and casualties among our personnel.

These actions, in which the Cambodian Heng Samrin relied upon Vietnamese troops and which caused damage to our country, occur time after time. We have protested to the United Nations several times, but that organization has not been effective at all in easing and ending the situation that has been damaging to our country.

12282
CSO: 4207/138

THAILAND

ARMOR DIVISION COMMANDER PROFILED

Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 28 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] Maj Gen Areeya U-kotkit is a Nakhon Si Ayutthaya-native by birth. He was born on Tuesday, 9 September 1936. A son of Mr Suphak and Mrs Sutcharit U-kotkit, he married Miss Uraiwan U-kotkit, daughter of Mrs Nokkaew Nawarat, on 19 November 1961. They have three children--Miss Jiraphon, Miss Areeyaa and Miss Areewan U-kotkit.

As for the beginning of his education, it is understood that the commander of the 2d Cavalry Division began his education in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province, his hometown. He graduated from the 5-year Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, Class 5, and was given the rank of "second lieutenant" in the cavalry on 25 January 1958 and was attached to the Cavalry Center Headquarters. With regard to his other educational background, he attended the Command and General Staff College, regular course, Class 45. He went to the Airborne and special forces operations schools, Class 13. He attended courses in civic action from the School of Civil Affairs of the U.S. Army at Fort Gordon.

Upon graduating from the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy in 1958, his first job was in the 11th Armored Bn as a platoon leader. Then he became commander of the battalion's recon company in 1962. Six years later, he became assistant operations officer of the Volunteer Army Division with the rank of "major." It was at this point that he went to Vietnam for a year. In less than 2 years, he was promoted to deputy commander of the 1st King's Guard Armored Bn. In addition, he also held other special positions: he was a royal aide-de-camp in 1978; he became deputy commander of the 1st King's Guard Cavalry Regiment, with the rank of "colonel" in 1980; he was promoted to commander of the 3d Cavalry Regiment; and at the beginning of the next year, he became commander of the 1st King's Guard Cavalry Regiment and then deputy commander of the 2d Cavalry Division in 1982. At the same time, he also held the position of a special officer attached to the 1st King's Guard Cavalry Regt, and to the 1st King's Guard Cavalry Bn. He held this position and this rank until 1 October 1984, when he was promoted to commander of the 2d Cavalry [Division], with the rank of "major general," when Maj Gen Wichat Lai-thomya, commander of the 2d Cavalry Division at the time, passed away. In addition to that, he was also appointed an alderman of the city of Bangkok, but he resigned because he already had a great number of responsibilities in the army.

11282

CSO: 4207/138

THAILAND

AAA COMMANDER PROFILED

Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 4 Feb 85 p 5

[Text] Maj Gen Wirote Saengsanit was born on 16 October 1935 in Uttaradit province. A son of Mr Charoen and Mrs Phensi Saengsanit, he graduated at the top in the 5-year Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy. Upon graduation he was commissioned a "second lieutenant" in the artillery on 25 January 1958. His job was forward observer of the 101st Artillery Battalion, Lopburi province.

He was promoted to "first lieutenant" in 1961, and then in 1962, he was transferred to the 11th King's Guard Artillery Battalion, Lopburi, as assistant operations and training officer. He was promoted to "captain" in 1963.

In 1963, he went to the United States to the artillery battalion commander course for mechanized artillery at the Artillery School of the U.S. Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Upon graduation, he returned to Thailand to teach at the Artillery School at the Army Artillery Center.

In 1965, he enrolled in the Command and General Staff College's regular curriculum, Class 44. Upon graduation, he became acting chief of staff of the 2d Anti-aircraft Artillery Regiment. He was promoted to the rank of "major" in 1967.

In April 1968, he was promoted to deputy commander of the 21st Artillery Battalion, and then in November 1968, he was made commander of the 21st Artillery Battalion.

Then in February 1970, he went to the war in Vietnam as commander of the 2d Artillery Battalion of the Volunteer Army Division's 2nd group. Having completed his tour of duty in the special mission, he was made commander of the 1st Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion in February 1971 and was given the rank of "lieutenant colonel" in October 1971.

In November 1973, he was appointed deputy commander of the 1st Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment and was promoted to the rank of "colonel" in October 1975. Then he was appointed deputy commander of the 2d Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment in June 1976, and in 1978, he was transferred to the Army Reserve Affairs Department.

Then in April 1981, he was appointed commander of the 1st King's Guard Artillery Regiment. He became deputy commander of the Antiaircraft Artillery Division in October 1982.

In May 1983, he was appointed deputy commander of the newly organized Artillery Division, and in October 1983, he was promoted to "major general" and made commander of the Artillery Division--he was the first commander of the Division.

Currently he is commander of the Antiaircraft Artillery Division; he was promoted to that position in October 1984.

Maj Gen Wirote Saengsanit went to a third country on a special mission from 25 February 1967 to 27 May 1968 and went to Vietnam on a war mission from 12 February 1970 to 12 February 1971.

His special titles were royal aide-de-camp, a first leader, a special honorary Thahan Phran Irregular attached to the Volunteer TPI Task Force of the 1st Army Area, a special officer attached to the 1st King's Guard Artillery Regiment, and an advisor to the director of the Mass Transit Organization of Bangkok.

Maj Gen Wirote Saengsanit was married to Miss Lakkhana U-chukomon, daughter of Lt Gen Chalong and Mrs Channuan U-chukomon, 12 April 1964. They have three children, the eldest being Mr Nalik Saengsanit, the second Mr Suwan Saengsanit, and the last Mr Thiralak Saengsanit.

As for his future, he will go a long way, especially for a person like him who possesses knowledge and ability. He is 50 years old; because he was born after 1 October, he will not retire for another 11 years.

12282

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THAILAND

FOREIGN MINISTER SATISFIED WITH TALKS IN INDIA

BK250209 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 25 Mar 85 pp 1, 2

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Excerpt] New Delhi--Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila left India yesterday after a 4-day visit with a sense of confidence in what he has accomplished in clarifying some important points regarding the Kampuchea conflict and at the same time strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Sitthi wound up his visit with an informal working dinner on Saturday with Indian Secretary of Foreign Affairs Romesh Bhandari who had just returned from a peace mission to Iran and Iraq. Bhandari was Indian ambassador to Thailand in 1972-75.

Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Thailand Asa Sarasin later had a discussion which lasted two and a half hours with Bhandari at the latter's residence. The talks centered on a wide range of issues, with particular emphasis on regional conflicts in South Asia, Middle East, Kampuchea and both countries' role in the UN Security Council.

The Thai officials took the opportunity to clarify several important points on the Kampuchean conflict, such as the concept of self-determination, Vietnamese troop withdrawal and national reconciliation. The discussion on the problem focussed on the recent proposal of a political solution which emerged in the talks in Hanoi between Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden and Kampuchean Foreign Minister Hun Sen, and with Premier Pham Van Dong and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

The six-point proposal that emerged from Hayden's talks has been under study by Indian authorities. The main points in the proposal are the removal of Pol Pot and his aide Iang Sary; the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops occupying Kampuchea and the holding of free elections under the supervision of international observers. India felt that these three points of the proposal could be implemented if the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea renounces Pol Pot.

The remaining three points in the proposal include a zone of peace and stability in the region for countries of different social systems to peacefully coexist

without international interference; international supervision; and control of the implementation of the agreements.

A Thai official said that the informal talks with Bhandari were extremely fruitful and showed that India gained more understanding of the situation in the region after several hours of frank talks. "India so far has been very responsive to our explanation," he said. As a result, the two countries decided that there should be an exchange of senior level officials on a yearly basis to continue the dialogue on problems of mutual concern.

An informed source said that there has been considerable political activity in recent weeks and many leaders from both the Western, Socialist and nonaligned nations have held discussion with leaders of Southeast Asian countries. The source said that India has been kept informed of the latest developments in the region, including the situation in Thailand by leaders who passed through New Delhi. Most recently it was Yugoslav Premier Milka Planinc who gave Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi a detailed appraisal of the situation after her visit to Thailand.

Sitthi also briefed Gandhi on his talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa who was told that continuing Soviet assistance to Vietnam could damage the century-old Thai-Soviet relations.

As the newest member of the UN Security Council, Thailand has a lot to learn from India which has had a lot of experience in the world body--having been elected about five times to the council and selected its chairman last month.

A senior Thai official said that Thailand, like India, also believes that membership in the council is a measure of a country's international standing and a vote of confidence in its capability to undertake the often onerous responsibilities.

Sitthi during the talks stressed that Thailand has its own independent views on international issues. And with the seat on the prestigious world organization, it will have the opportunity to promote its independent perceptions of global issues.

India's attempts to bring about a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and its success in getting the two warring states to agree to halt attacks on civilian targets won the admiration of Thai leaders.

Equally important, the upcoming summit of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) was also raised during the informal talks between Asa and Bharandi, especially on the question of a Kampuchean seat, which was left vacant since the previous meeting. Thai authorities would like to see India, as the chairman of NAM, to exert more influence in settling the Kampuchean problem.

Sitthi's visit, coming about a month after the visit of Commerce Minister Koson Krairoek, was also aimed at widening the scope of Thai-Indo cooperation in the fields of trade, science and technology, joint ventures and cultural exchanges.

CSO: 4200/691

THAILAND

COMMUNITY FOR CPT RETURNEES DESCRIBED

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 28, 30 Jan-1, 2 Feb 85

[Article by Pongsak Srisod]

[28 Jan 85 p 5]

[Text]

MORE than four years have passed since the anti-communist strategy, known as PM's Order No. 66/23, was launched, at a time when the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) was at its peak in strength and activities. And military officials concur nowadays that the efficacy of the policy is inarguable. The success of the strategy, they said, has been "proven in concrete terms."

They cite the success of a pilot project which was carried out late last year as evidence. The project, officially called "National Construction Participants Project", had been worked out to enable defectors from the front-line organizations and the rank-and-file supporters of the outlawed party to have a means of living on their return to society as normal citizens. To be specific, the aid to the defectors under the programme are farmlands and houses. Gen Arthit Kamlang-ek in his capacity as communist prevention director general presided over the ceremony to grant farms and living quarters to "national construction participants" at Dong Mu settlement in Thart Phanom District, Nakhon Phanom on December 13, last year.

The project was launched and accomplished in a situation where there were strong doubts as to how the government would treat the defectors who were formerly members of communist cadres based in what was then Zone 444 in upper Ubon Ratchathani. The communist cadres and followers in the zone, considered one of the strongest in the Northeast, surrendered en masse to the government on December 1, 1982, marking the first massive defection to the government since the introduction of the new anti-communist strategy and setting the precedent for other members and followers of the banned party to follow.

"The project can be described as a practical and significant follow-up to increase political gains in accordance with the PM's order," a field military source recently told *The Nation*.

He quoted from the PM's order the following main policies in the fight against the CPT: To wind up the campaign against communism through a political offensive as soon as possible; curtail and liquidate the front movement and the armed forces of the outlawed party to put an end to the rebellion;

pursue a neutral policy to prevent the eruption of a war for separation; and convert the armed struggle being waged by the CPT to a movement of peaceful processes.

Army Assistant Chief-of-Staff in charge of civilian affairs Lt Gen Charuay Wongsayant, who is responsible for the project in his capacity as director of civilian affairs of the army, told *The Nation* that the success of the project clearly underscores the government's sincerity towards communist defectors. "I'd like to convey the message to those who are still fighting against the government from the jungles. The government is sincere in carrying out the policies embodied in the PM's order," he said.

The project involved the setting up of three new villages for the communist defectors. They are Nomklao Village in Phulanklang, Lerngnoktha District of Yasothon, Phupahom Village in Don Tal District of Mukdaharn and Dong Mu Village in Thart Phanom District of Nakhon Phanom.

"The project was officially launched on February 5, last year after Gen Arthit had instructed the Internal Security Operations

Command (ISOC) office attached to the Second Army Region to take on the responsibility of carrying it out and the Directorate of Civilian Affairs to coordinate with related government agencies. The supreme commander also appointed governors of Yasothorn, Mukdaharn and Nakhon Phanom as chairmen of the three working groups on the setting up of the three villages," the field military source said.

In negotiations prior to the mass surrender, the government promised farmlands and houses for the defectors. Military sources said that the government had intended to wind up the project quickly to maximize political gains from the defection, made possible under the new strategy in which political considerations take precedence over military measures. But it was delayed because the Phulamklang area was part of a reserved forest. The stumbling bloc was removed when the Cabinet approved a resolution to use the land for the project.

Speaking of the project, Army Chief-of-Staff Gen Banchob Bunnag told *The Nation*: "This is proof of the success of the implementation of the PM's Order No. 66/23 and the government toge-

ther with the army will further carry out the order in practical terms continually".

Nonetheless, former Zone 444, leaders like Bai Sukchai, alias Comrade Tiam, a founder of the operational zone, Choon Khamprasom, a former member of Zone 444's central committee, also known by the jungle name of Comrade Reng and former Zone 333 leader Rampei Unchai, alias Comrade Som, have different views to air.

Bai, 64, now living in Nomklao Village, said that he can not say the PM's order could defeat the CPT as the mass defection would not have happened without the combination of the order and the bickerings in the rank and file of the banned party.

"Had the order been issued during 1973-1978 or had the CPT readjusted its policies in accordance with the aspirations within the party, the order would have become meaningless and would have had no impact," he added.

Rampei described the order as an "external factor" and the problems within the party as "internal and decisive factors".

"If the PM's order is to defeat the CPT, the government must continue to pursue the applica-

tion of the order consistently and make it into a law so that local authorities throughout the country would have a uniform code of conduct," he said.

He said that the government should not feel complacent from the achievements by far of the PM's order and should continue to see to it that the order be carried out consistently.

Choon, 45, said that if the "progressive elements" in the CPT had succeeded in changing the party lines during the crucial Fourth Party Congress, the PM's order would have been insignificant.

The ideological rift within the party was deep and acute during the Fourth Party Congress. "In Zone 444, the party rift prompted us to work out four scenarios: continue adhering to the pro-China lines and as we see it, the option holds out no future; join hands with the Vietnamese - an option that will invite an invasion like that in Kampuchea; accept the offers embodied in the PM's order; or turn to the so-called independent Marxism or Fourth International which is still not popular", he said.

"And, we chose the third option," the defector added.

[30 Jan 85 p 5]

[Text]

A TOTAL of 19,008,251 baht has been spent from government coffers to realize a project to resettle almost 1,200 communist defectors in three new villages in the Northeast. Of course, it is not merely a resettlement programme: It is politically oriented and a practical follow-up to the PM's Order No 66/23.

The money has been used, among other things, to turn over 5,000 rai of reserved forest, which was denuded to a considerable extent, into farmland for the defectors.

The programme was launched following the Cabinet approval on August 6 of the inclusion in the project of the reserve, a former hide-out of communist defectors. The Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC)

immediately started working on the project, assigning the Second Army Region ISOC office and the provincial ISOC offices in Yasothorn, Mukdaharn and Nakhon Phanom to carry it out. "A working group went into the three provinces to survey the designated areas, formulate a master plan and start the field work on Feb 5, last year," a military officer who was involved in the implementation of the project told *The Nation*.

Nomklao Village, situated in "Dong Phulamklang" in Tambon Bungkha of Lerngnoktha District in Yasothorn, is one of three villages which have been set up under the project to provide farmlands and living quarters for former communist cadres and followers in the so-called Zone 333 and Zone 444 in the

Northeast. The village is located in an area where communist cadres used to have an operational zone named "Dong Burapha" (the eastern forest).

Under Yasothorn Governor Charuay Yingsawat's supervision, 162 families in communist Zone 444 and 22 other poverty-stricken families living in the vicinity were resettled at the village with a budget of 13,452,086 baht. Each family was given 8.5 rai of land.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS

The work on the village included the construction of three steel-reinforced concrete bridges (8.5 kms in all), a stretch of 12-km road, a two-building school which includes teachers' quarters, a sanitary station, as well as the employment of a sanitary staff, the setting up of an agricultural cooperatives, the construction of two water reservoirs and 24 artesian wells.

Phuphahom Village, another village set up under the project, is situated in the neighbourhood of Dong Tal community in Tambon Nasameng of Don Tal District, Mukdaharn. The project, supervised by Mukdaharn Governor Chamlong Rachprasert and financed by a budget of 3,640,714 baht, has resettled 293 people in 74 families, who formerly lived in Zone 333 of the outlawed communist party. Each family was given 15 rai.

The third and last village, Dong Mu, is located about four kms from the Mekong River, near

what used to be a strategic route linking communist insurgents based on the Phuphan mountain range to neighbouring Laos. The village in That Phanom District of Nakhon Phanom was set up under the joint supervision of ex-Governor Viroj Ammarat and Nakhon Phanom Governor Uthai Narkpricha with a budget of 1,915,451 baht. Seventy-two families, a total of 274 communist defectors, from Zone 333 have been resettled in the village, each with 15 rai of land.

"We helped the communist defectors because they gave up to the authorities empty-handed after years of hardship in the jungles. Their surrender marked the start of a new life and the start should not be too bad. Without our assistance, they could create social problems. In addition, the project is in line with the PM's Order No 66/23, which, in essence, offers incentives to communist insurgents who surrender to the government," Col Prasong Hualprapai, chief of the Second Army Region's civilian affairs, told *The Nation*.

In the words of a senior military official, the project was a practical step to "guarantee the victory the government has scored in its campaign against CPT". To some observers, however, the key to guaranteeing the achievements so far gained against the banned party, lies in continuity and general improvement of the living standards of the people — the most effective preventive measure against the resurgence of communist influence here.

[1 Feb 85 p 5]

[Text]

THE new life for almost 2,000 communist defectors at Nomklao, Phuphahom and Dong Mu villages in the Northeast may not be as difficult as the hard life they knew in the jungles, but then the task ahead is staggering enough. And they fully realized this from the outset.

When the 274 communist defectors and their followers from Zone 333 marched into the tract of land that is supposed to be the seat of Dong Mu Village, they found that that part of the land had been occupied by encroachers who also claimed ownership of

the area, formerly a reserved forest. Moving into the land naturally entailed disputes between the newcomers and the encroachers, spoiling what should have been a good start for the defectors.

Rampoei Unchal, a former leader in Zone 333, said that land disputes at Dong Mu was the major problem when he and the other defectors started to settle at the former forest preserve.

"Although Dong Mu settlement was formerly a reserved forest, villagers have trespassed on the land and had virtually denuded the area. They had settled

there before us and claimed ownership over the land promised us by the authorities," the 43-year-old former communist leader said.

He added that it took quite some time to settle the disputes because the authorities initially did not bother to deal with the problem.

"Although we have finally been settled and had started to make our living here, we continue to live with the feeling that we had to overcome numerous difficulties before we can establish our settlement firmly. You know, we wasted quite a number of

years during which I shuttled between the village and Bangkok on behalf of the villagers to seek reassurance for our stay here," he said.

Rampoei said that the second problem they faced was a "development budget" desperately needed by the empty-handed defectors but denied by field authorities who claimed that the pledge from the authorities to assist them has been fulfilled.

Their ownership over the land was not confirmed until Supreme Commander Gen Arthit Kamlang-ek visited the area to give away land title deeds to the defectors on December 13, last year, Rampoei said. Yet, Rampoei said that members of the Dong Mu Village still feel insecure as they are not sure whether they could make a living off of the land given them, which is not very fertile.

Soon Kampisom, 45, former leader of Zone 444, who is now living at Nomklao Village, the biggest of the three, said most of the communist defectors settled in his village felt uneasy in the new environment during the initial period because of administrative differences between the village and the jungles.

"But we have managed to adjust ourselves to the new environment," he said.

Moreover, during the first months after their mass surrender, the defectors came under harsh attacks by the communist diehards in the jungles who accused them of betraying the communist cause and embezzling the party's money before their defection. The communist remnants in the jungles stepped up their castigation

of the defectors when the authorities seemingly became laggard in their pledge to give the defectors farmlands, according to Soon.

Thongpoon Klongdi, a former leader of Zone 333 and now a resident at Phuphahom Village, said that the villagers faced minimal difficulties adjusting themselves to the new social life — and the new rules.

"We don't hold a grudge against the authorities who visit us. When they visit us, they encourage us to continue our efforts to establish a firm new life," he said.

A common problem that faced the defectors at the three villages has been the construction of their houses. The problem was most acute at Nomklao Village in Lerng Nok Tha District, Yasothorn. Despite assistance worth about 5,000 baht for each family to build a house, the villagers are still unable to have permanent residences.

In the words of Nomklao Village headman Boonchan Piewluang, 28, it has been the biggest problem since the defectors moved into the area for settlement. Many rounds of meetings have been called to solve the problem, but they always ended up with inconclusive results. Each family was given only 5,000 baht to build a house, but the money was just enough to buy zinc sheets. The villagers needed additional funds to procure other construction materials, Boonchan said.

As a result, only makeshift shelters have been built in a haphazard manner in the village. The zinc sheets were used not only to make roofs, but also walls and the size of each house is thus relatively small.

Unlike Nomklao Village which, ironically, is the most fertile area, settlers in the other two smaller villages faced fewer problems in constructing their houses because members in each of the two villages joined hands in cutting down trees to construct their houses.

"Project officers here also chose to spend the budget buying thatch to make roofs and bamboo to make walls. The houses were thus orderly built, though not permanent because we have to change the roofs and walls every two years," Thongpoon Klongdee, the village headman of Phuphahom, told *The Nation*. The situation at Dong Mu is the same as in Phuphahom.

Villagers at Nomklao Village told *The Nation* that the housing problem in their village had not been solved properly because of rifts between the former leadership and former low-level party members who felt that the leadership of Zone 444 let down other villagers.

"The former communist leaders' conditions of living are much better than the other villagers despite the fact that they abandoned the jungles all empty-handed. Some built larger houses than others. The strong doubts cast on the former leaders has resulted in the lack of leadership in the village and therefore villagers independently built their houses in their own way," a villager said.

It is ironic that, while Nomklao Village is more fertile and abundant with trees than the other two villages, the villagers there had more problems, he added.

[Text]

THE Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) adjusted its struggle against the government immediately after the PM's Order No 66/23 was enacted in 1980. In contrast with the new government strategy in which political offensives lead military action, the outlawed party's counter-measure was to place military operations ahead of political thrusts.

For the Northeast, the party leadership instructed the regional leadership to formulate a military plan and launch accordingly a series of military operations, code-named Pradermchai I, Pradermchai II and Pradermchai III aimed at liberating some provinces in the region. But due to several factors, mainly the growing rift within the rank and file of the party and the introduction of the new anti-communist strategy, the series of military offensives was disrupted.

Before the government introduced the new strategy, the banned party reached its peak both in military strength and popularity during 1973-1978. In the Northeast alone, the communist provincial operational zones grew to 12, seven in the upper Northeast and five in the lower Northeast.

A crisis, the worst over to hit the party, however, put a brake to its growth and has finally led to its dramatic decline.

A senior communist defector told *The Nation* that the crisis in the party resulted from sudden changes in the international situation which served to further widen the party's cracks.

The changes in the international arena which most affected the CPT was the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea in 1978 and the major leadership change in China which saw the return to power of Chinese strongman Deng Xiaoping

and the eruption of fighting on the Sino-Vietnamese border. All the dramatic events took place in early 1979, dealing a hard blow to the ideological unity of the party and finally leading to internecine rifts in the rank and file, according to the former communist leader.

Never before had the rifts over the practical ways towards ousting the government been so wide and diverse. One of the ideological conflicts was the struggle between the peaceful and violent approaches. Ideological debates surfaced and intensified in every party branch only to plunge it deeper into confusion and animosity.

The party was also divided over organizational problems as a result of the confusion among the top brass of the party hierarchy. Meanwhile, conflicts developed between the party and its front organizations which started to question the leadership of the party.

In this context, the government launched the new anti-communist strategy, effectively stopping the party growth. The CPT suddenly found itself in a defensive position and could not extend its sphere of influence in the country.

The Pradermchai operation was launched early 1981. Its first target was the tambon police station at Nasinual Village in Mukdaharn District. It was different from the previous military operations in the sense that the tactical plan was worked out and directed by staff officers sent to provincial zones from the central or regional party leadership. And immediately after the military operation, the political cadres followed up with political offensives.

The central party leadership assigned all operational zones in the

Northeast to carry out the military offensives simultaneously, but the Pradermchai operations were practically successful in Zone 444 alone, the strongest of all the 12 zones. The Pradermchai III plan which has never materialized envisaged a simultaneous flurry of military offensives in all the zones to liberate some provinces.

A former Zone 444 leader told *The Nation* that the Northeast leadership assigned Prathak Khongsamai, known by his jungle name as Comrade Palang, a staff officer, to the operational zone to supervise the implementation of the military plans.

"Our military activities during the period were very successful: we inflicted the maximum losses on government authorities while sustaining the minimum casualties," said the defector who attributed the success to the application of "pure military tactics" in the operations.

But the internecine party rifts disrupted the Pradermchai plans, worked out to counter the new government strategy. Almost all of the CPT's zones suspended the military operations, then in the stage of Pradermchai II, after having carried out the plans for about one year to wait for the outcome of the Fourth Party Congress, which all party cadres hoped would help settle the inner party conflicts.

By then, Zone 444, for instance, had completed the first and second phases of Pradermchai operations and overrun the tambon police station at Nasinual Village, a ranger outpost in Lerng

Nok Thai District, Yasothorn, police station at Nathom Village in Amnartcharoen District, Ubon Ratchathani and Nikhom Khamsoi police station in Mukdaharn.

"The Pradermchai operations were successful only in Zone 444 because it was the strongest zone in the region," a military officer told *The Nation*.

The results of the fourth party congress were relayed to party members on August, 1982 and drew strong reactions from the rank and file of the party. Many operational zones rejected the party resolutions and denied the party leadership. Among them was Zone 444 whose leadership held many rounds of serious meetings to define their positions as a result of the changes at the top brass. The Zone 444 leadership resolved to lead their followers to defect to the government and assigned some party leaders to negotiate with the military over the terms of their surrenders, based on PM's Order No 66/23.

The negotiations culminated in the first mass surrender on Dec 1, 1982, setting the precedent for other communist zones to defect en masse. The events inflicted a heavy blow to the banned party whose strength in the Northeast has dropped from 4,000 men strong during the peak period to 120-150 members these days. The communist remnants continued to pursue the armed struggle against the government in three areas: Northern Phuphan mountain, lower Northeast zone (about 30-40 members) and Zone 777 at Phukhiew in Chaiyaphum (about 40-50).

THAILAND

LETTER CRITICIZES AID TO KHMER ROUGE

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 8 Mar 85 p 4

[Text]

Dear Sir,

The open letters to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Vietnamese Communist Party, together with the joint statement, issued by a group of Thai academics concerning the Kampuchean conflict, are spirited efforts to utilize the power of idealism and public opinion to resolve what has certainly become one of the most tragic problems of our age. Criticisms that these documents will achieve nothing are entirely beside the point: success and failure should not be allowed to be the criteria used to judge, or indeed to add to or to subtract from, the moral correctness of any action. And one must surely congratulate Professor Khien Theeravit, the Director of Chulalongkorn University's Institute of Asian Studies, for the part he played in mobilizing a significant number of distinguished academics towards this joint endeavour.

However, it should be firmly stressed that the viewpoints put forth in these documents are private opinions of those who have signed them and not official expressions of a consensus of academic opinion at Chulalongkorn University, Thammasat University and Ramkhamhaeng University. *Indeed, there are a number of reasons why one can both deplore Vietnam's invasion and occupation of Kampuchea and reject the approach taken by the main authors and signatories of these documents which have singled out Vietnam as the culprit behind the present tragedy in Kampuchea.*

The first reason is that these viewpoints lack a rigorous and objective analysis. The main authors and signatories of these documents have simplified the situation which is vastly complex and rooted in a number of geopolitical, historical and socio-economic phenomena. By identifying Vietnam's action as the singular cause of the Kampuchean conflict, these academics through their influence on students and members of the public are helping to perpetuate certain myths especially concerning Vietnam which are in fact one of the causes of the present problem, hinder an objective quest for knowledge and understanding by those in their charge, and ultimately do disservice to their profession.

The second reason is that there is inconsistency in the moral position of the authors and signatories of these documents. Vietnam's aggression is singled out while China's and the Khmer Rouge's remain unmentioned. In this connection, while one can wholeheartedly agree with the principle of Kampuchean national self-determination, one can question whether a Kampuchea under a Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge regime or ruled by a government consisting of the Khmer Rouge can ever be considered a "free" and "self-determined" country. The moral position underlying these documents can only be made consistent if one subscribes to the theory of just war (or violence) which by some previously defined moral cri-

teria would enable one to differentiate the "injustice" of Vietnam's action from the "justice" of China's and the Khmer Rouge's action (and indeed of Indonesia's in East Timor). The problem is that even if one can identify and define such criteria, one still has to answer the fundamental philosophical question: Can war and violence ever be considered "just"?

The third reason for rejecting the approach taken by the main authors and signatories of these documents is that the latter have indulged what can best be termed as a false sense of moral superiority. Forgotten are the facts that historically Vietnam is not the only country which has inflicted war and destruction on Kampuchea and the Kampuchean people and that our policy towards Kampuchean refugees is dictated, not necessarily by moral conscience or special fondness for Khmers, but by situational exigencies and calculations of power politics which often make the refugees no more than expendable pawns in the Thai national security game.

Progress in one sense can be regarded as a process of transforming man's hopes and ideals into concrete, living reality. Without hopes and ideals no human progress can be measured or accomplished. For this one must appreciate the efforts of Professor Khien *et alii*. However, it is also true that to be relevant and creative, hopes and ideals must also be related to the objective reality and a comprehensive, balanced and consistent assessment thereof. Without wishing to subtract from the strength and genuineness of their standpoints, one might suggest that in the last resort this is the failing of the group of academics involved in this effort to find the solution to Kampuchean problem.

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THAILAND

MONK'S MISBEHAVIOR, DECLINING ABILITIES SEEN AS CONCERN

Bangkok CHAT ATHIPATAI in Thai 10-16 Mar 85 pp 6-9

[News Scoop column: "The Religious Community Is Disorganized; Monks and Novices Violate the Precepts and the Wats Lack Abbots"]

[Text] On 21-23 February, the Department of Religious Affairs held a meeting for the 89 regional ecclesiastical governors and deputy governors of both the Mahanikai and Thammayut sects at the seminar hall at Wat Samphraya. The purpose was to increase the administrative efficiency of the Sangha [Buddhist order] in the regions, particularly in the target areas for rural development.

Another important purpose in holding this meeting was to find ways to prevent and stop other religions from making inroads.

"The world has made great progress materially. Communications are very rapid," stated Mr Mongkhon Siphaiwan, the director-general of the Department of Religious Affairs, when presenting a report on the spread of other religions. "This has resulted in other religions making great inroads in just a short period of time and affected the security of Buddhism."

This conference discussed several interesting problems concerning the Sangha. The problems discussed were based on statistics and other data gathered by the Department of Religious Affairs and the regional ecclesiastical governors and deputy governors at wats throughout the country (31,187 wats).

The regional ecclesiastical governors play a very important role in administering the Sangha in the regions since they are the highest administrators in each region. At present, the 73 provinces are divided into 26 regions (18 Mahanikai regions and 8 Thammayut regions).

Based on articles 21 and 22 of the 1962 Sangha Act, Sangha administration is divided into regional, provincial, district and subdistrict zones. The monks who serve as administrators at each of these levels are the regional, provincial, district and subdistrict ecclesiastical governors.

Monks-Novices, More and More Are Violating the Precepts

At present, there are a total of 397,987 monks and novices at the various wats throughout the country. There are 267,416 monks and 130,571 novices (and 85,374 temple boys).

Statistics gathered by the Department of Religious Affairs in just 58 provinces show that in 1984, 669 monks and novices engaged in activities that violated the precepts and Sangha regulations. Most, 250, were from wats in Bangkok Metropolitan. This was followed by monks in Saraburi, 42; Nonthaburi, 40; Ayuthaya, 30; Lopburi, 20; Suphanburi, 18; Samut Prakan, 17; Chonburi, 14; Ubon Ratchathani, 13; Roi Et, 12; Khon Kaen, 11; Nakhon Sithammarat, 11; Pathumthani, 10; and Chainat, 10.

As compared with 1983, the number of monks and novices who violated the precepts and Sangha regulations increased greatly. In 1983, there were only 233 cases.

Most of the violations concerned receiving food improperly, accepting gifts without permission, staying at unauthorized places, establishing camps in heavily populated areas, dressing in laymen's clothes and going to trade centers, drinking liquor and gambling.

Wats Lack Abbots; Old and Have Little Knowledge

Something about which the Department of Religious Affairs is concerned and which it brought up at the meeting was the problem of Sangha administration in the regions. The Department of Religious Affairs stated that at present, the wats lack knowledgeable and capable ecclesiastical leaders, that is, abbots.

"Abbots are very important people since they have a wide range of responsibilities," stated a report presented by the Department of Religious Affairs at the meeting. "They are closely involved with the monks and laymen in administering various matters. Thus, besides the formal qualifications necessary for their position, abbots must also have special qualifications such as broad knowledge and good human relations."

However, while the regional ecclesiastical governors did not agree with all of the data presented by the Department of Religious Affairs, the data were accepted and included in the reports of the various provinces.

"It is difficult to find knowledgeable and capable monks to serve as abbots," stated the Region 1 report. (Region 1 comprises Bangkok Metropolitan, Nonthaburi, Pathumthani and Samut Prakan.)

Most of the reports presented by the regional ecclesiastical governors were quite similar. For example, the Region 7 (comprising Chiang Mai, Lamphun and Mae Hong Son provinces) report stated that "few Mahanikai monks have administrative experience and few understand their duties as stated in the laws."

In short, the problems mentioned by the regional ecclesiastical governors in their reports included the following: monks at administrative levels are not interested in the lives of the monks and novices, they are old, most depend on the wat rather than having the wat depend on them and they lack knowledge and capabilities.

Religious Education Has Declined; There Is a Shortage of Teachers to Teach Religious Studies

"At present, the naktham and Pali studies sections of the Sangha are inefficient and little has been achieved." This was another problem mentioned by the Department of Religious Affairs at the meeting.

The Department of Religious Affairs stated that on the average, only 40 percent of the students who take the annual naktham examination pass the examination.

In 1983, 258,702 naktham students took the examination but only 73,142 passed. In the Pali section, 8,169 students took the examination but only 2,990 passed. This was a pass rate of only 36.6 percent." These were the figures cited by the Department of Religious Affairs.

The Department of Religious Affairs stated that an important reason for the lack of efficiency in these studies is that the naktham teachers at the education offices do not have the qualifications that they should. There are several reasons for this. For example, the heads of the education offices (usually the abbot) has the teacher teach in a way that facilitates the work of the wat. These teachers do not have knowledge or experience about teaching methods or educational administration.

"Usually, the teaching is in the form of an 'older brother teaching a younger brother.' That is, when someone passes an examination at some level, the head of the education office uses that person to teach those at lower levels," stated the Department of Religious Affairs report.

The Department of Religious Affairs stated that another important reason is the shortage of religious studies teachers. While there are 16,227 registered naktham teachers, the actual number is much lower since the education offices frequently change teachers. This stems from the needs of the wat. For example, the abbot uses them to carry out other religious tasks.

Fake Identification Cards; More and More Monks and Novices Study General Subjects

Two other problems discussed at this meeting that are worth mentioning are the problem of fake ID cards for monks and novices and the problem of more monks and novices entering the general stream of education rather than undertaking naktham studies.

As for fake ID cards, these can be purchased easily at the markets. Thus, people can use these to pose as monks or novices.

"Some people purchase a fake ID card, shave their head and put on yellow robes and use this as a cover to obtain money," said one official from the Department of Religious Affairs to CHAT ATHIPATAI about the importance of ID cards. As an example, he said that "some of those who collect offerings during the Pha Pa and Kathin ceremonies by having a 'monk' sit in the front of the vehicle expressing gratitude may just be posing as monks."

As for the problem of more monks and novices entering the general stream of education rather than undertaking naktham studies, the Department of Religious Affairs reported at the meeting that at present, more and more monks and novices are taking an interest in and entering the general stream of education. That is, more monks and novices are attending adult education classes and the general education sections of the naktham schools. This is evident from the fact that the number of people taking and passing the naktham examinations has declined continually.

"It is well known why more and more monks and novices are studying general subjects," said the same official from the Department of Religious Affairs. "After they enter the order, they have few expenses while getting an education. After they complete their education, they leave the order and go look for a job."

However, solving these problems is a very complex matter. The monks and novices must take a hard look at themselves first. As Mr Chuan Likphai, the minister of education, said at the meeting:

"Today, the world is changing. Some say that the people have less faith in Buddhism than before. Monks must look at their role to see how they can serve the people or help promote peace in order to draw more people to religion."

Abbots Are Like Wat Guardians

Note: These reports present data on the administrative, educational and proselytizing problems of the wats nationwide. The data were collected by the regional ecclesiastical governors and deputy governors, who

then prepared the reports for presentation at the meeting held on 21-23 February 1985 (only reports for certain important regions are given below).

Region 1 (Bangkok Metropolitan, Nonthaburi, Pathumthani and Samut Prakan):

Administrative situation: Some religious officials are not interested in the laws, Council of Elders' regulations, orders or rules. This has led them to make mistakes and created major problems. It is difficult to find knowledgeable and capable monks to serve as abbots. Monks use liquor and narcotics.

Educational situation: Most naktham instruction is provided during the phansa [Lent] season. Pali is taught only at the provincial educational offices. There is a shortage of qualified teachers, and students are not interested in studying these subjects.

Proselytizing: This is done as means permit. It is done as it has always been done. There is a shortage of monks to spread the teachings.

Region 2: (Ayuthaya, Ang Thong and Saraburi):

Administration: Depends on the individual and the environment. If the administrative monk-official is an old person, things are done in an old-fashioned manner.

Education: The situation is not very good. Often, the instructors and students cannot get along. That is, the subjects taught do not match the needs of people today. Also, the curriculum is too broad and so people lose interest.

Proselytizing: Good results have not been achieved. There is a shortage of people to supervise things. Things have not been done based on the targets. There is a shortage of everything, particularly people with expertise about principles and causes and with other qualifications.

Region 5 (Phitsanulok, Sukhothai, Uttaradit and Tak):

Administration: There is a shortage of district ecclesiastical governors and abbots. For example, in Mae Ramat and Tha Song Yang districts in Tak Province, there are no monks qualified to serve as district ecclesiastical governor or abbot.

Education: There are educational offices only in the developed areas. Because of this, the monks and novices have not received an adequate education and educational activities have been inefficient.

Proselytizing: Communications are inconvenient. There is a shortage of personnel, vehicles and funds for this work.

Region 7 (Chiang Mai, Lamphun and Mae Hong Son):

Administration: It is difficult to find monks who have knowledge of Sangha affairs. Few monk-officials have administrative experience or understand their duties as stated in the Council of Elders Regulation of 1963, fourth edition.

Education: Nakhtam studies are the most common. There are few Pali study centers. More Pail-educated monks are needed to teach Pali studies. The existing education offices need high-grade Pail scholars from the center in order to prevent [lower-grade] Pali scholars from moving to the center to continue their studies.

Proselytizing: Itinerant monks from other localities often come and cause trouble and sow dissension.

Region 8 (Udorn Thani, Nong Khai and Sakon Nakhon):

Administration: It is difficult to find knowledgeable and capable monks to serve as abbots. Monks use liquor and narcotics. Administrative-level monks do not take an interest in the well-being of the monks and novices under their supervision, who live in very crowded conditions. There is a lack of instruction and guidance based on the religious teachings. Administrators are sometimes biased in their decisions.

Education: There is a shortage of qualified teachers. Students are not interested in their studies. Instruction is not uniform. At wats where the heads of the education offices are strict, a broad education is provided. There is a lack of close supervision.

Proselytizing: This is done as means permit. Things are done as they have always been done. There is a shortage of monks and means to spread the teachings.

Region 11 (Nakhon Ratchasima, Buriram, Chaiyaphum and Surin):

Administration: Everyone does what he wants. There is a lack of warmth and attention. The orders of superiors are followed, but these orders are not in harmony with local needs. Administration is underdeveloped. There is a shortage of knowledgeable and capable administrative monk-officials. Most of these rely on the wat instead of having the wat rely on them.

Education: This is very haphazard. There is no foundation. The old ways are followed. Everything depends on the chao khana [head of the ecclesiastical administration division]. Everything is based on tradition. The monks and novices are not diligent in their religious studies. They claim that the subjects are too difficult.

Proselytizing: There is no firm foundation. Everyone does what he wants. There is a lack of supervision and support. The environment has ensnared people to the point where their mental state is very low. It will be difficult to develop people based on the Buddhist teachings.

Region 13 (Chonburi, Rayong, Chanthaburi and Trat):

Administration: There are often problems in appointing abbots (only at wats with revenues). Monks from both outside and inside the zone violate the Council of Elders regulations on accepting gifts. Gambling is becoming more prevalent.

Education: The number of people interested in religious studies is declining since there is little to encourage people to study these subjects. Even the people directly responsible, that is, the abbots and the chao khana, do not have an interest in this.

Proselytizing: (Not discussed).

Region 14 (Nakhon Pathom, Suphanburi, Kanchanaburi and Samut Sakhon):

Administration: Administrators with little knowledge are not suited to administering things. But there is no one else. [Good administrators] must be trained. There is a tendency to lean toward the powers of the people and influential people. Whatever they say is the way things "must be." This causes tension and forces people to move. The lack of knowledgeable administrators is not the only reason for this. There are too many wats. Some of the wats should be eliminated. The population base necessary for establishing a wat should be stipulated.

Education and proselytizing: (Not discussed).

Region 16 (Nakhon Sithammarat, Chumphon and Surat Thani), Region 17 (Phuket, Trang, Krabi, Phangnga and Ranong) and Region 18 (Songkhla, Phatthalung, Satun, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat):

Administration: Most of the abbots are unqualified. Most are old and entered the order at an older age. They are too old to study and cannot do much. Younger people do not stay in the order very long. The abbots are like temple guardians who just look after the temple. Administration and the wats are deteriorating. In some places, the laymen now control the abbots.

Education: There is a shortage of teachers to provide religious instruction. Those who enter the order are not interested in religious studies. They think that this is a waste of time. The administrators and abbots are unqualified and are very old.

Proselytizing: (Not discussed).

11943

CSO: 4207/154

THAILAND

BOY, THREE POLICEMEN CAPTURED BY LAOS TO BE FREED

BK240240 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW English 24 Mar 85 p 3

[Text] Mukdhan--A Thai boy and three policemen who were taken captive by Laotian troops in the Mekong River last week are safe and will be released after the Laotians have completed interrogating them, marine police sources said yesterday.

The boy, identified as Aopphon Ninfaeng son of Samai Ninfaeng, head of the Mukdahan-based Hydrographic Survey Centre, was arrested while he and three other friends were sailing near Don Sawan islet in the middle of the Mekong River between the centre and the Nakae pier on the other bank last Wednesday.

His friends, however, managed to escape by swimming across the river to the Thai bank. The 15-year-old boy was arrested by Laotian troops on charge of violating the Lao territorial water.

Laotian troops also captured two Thai marine policemen and a border patrol police troop on a long-tailed boat in the same area last Thursday.

The policemen were identified as Pol Saff Sergeant Sunthon Charoenwuthimakon, Pol Pvt Raman Khamlucha and Pol Pvt Sombun Khamwso.

The Laotians also seized an M-16 assault rifle, a 38 mm pistol and an 11 mm pistol from the Thai policemen.

Deputy Governor Sub Lt Sanan Thanirat and Governor Chamlong Ratprasoet later contacted the Laotian counterparts in Savannakhet Province and were told by the Lao deputy governor that the four Thai people were held captive pending interrogation.

The Laotian authorities said that the captives were safe and would be returned to Thai authorities after the interrogation.

However, the Laotians did not mention the date of the release, according to marine police sources.

The sources said that on 13 March, Laotian troops arrested an American tourist who was sailing along the Mekong River on charges of spying. However, he was released after interrogation. The American tourist was released and sent to Tha Sadat pier in Nong Khai on Thursday.

CSO: 4200/691

THAILAND

TAX STRUCTURE DILEMMA

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 12 Mar 85 p 17, .

[Excerpt]

THE Finance Ministry is facing a legislative stumbling block in a plan to implement a new round of tax restructure which envisages transfer of many products now subject to business tax to come under excise tax collection. Among various alternatives considered by ministry officials is to simply raise taxes for products and transfer some of them for excise tax, well-informed sources said yesterday.

Finance Minister Sommai Hoontrakool, the sources said, has been discussing the legal aspects with Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Meechai Ruchupan, who is one of the country's top legal experts.

Ministry officials are concerned, however, that if there are upward tax adjustments, there could be negative results in the extent and efficiency in collection because higher taxes will affect private business.

The ministry wants to boost its tax revenue to meet expenditure. It envisages tax revenue collection up to 162,000 million baht for the current fiscal year and to meet the

level set at 183,000 million for the next fiscal year.

"Upward tax adjustments will pose a problem -- will the ministry be able to reach the collection target? There are many private firms which have yet to recover from the adverse effects caused by the baht devaluation," said ministry sources.

The ministry intends to raise tax collection to partly offset its budget deficit in the next fiscal year. But there is more pressure when the Oil Fund, currently spent on subsidizing domestic oil prices, will last only five months from now and the ministry will have to seek extra revenue when the Oil Fund is in the red.

Ministry officials also recommended that several major projects on the Eastern Seaboard will have to be slowed down. The State Railways of Thailand will have to reduce its external borrowings by as much as possible. The Telephone Organization of Thailand will have to either suspend or delay its expansion.

THAILAND

BAHT VALUE SINKS TO RECORD LOW

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 26 Feb 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

THE BAHT PLUNGED to a record low yesterday at 28.27 baht per US dollar which, spurred by President Ronald Reagan's pledge not to intervene to stem its rise, boomed again on world money markets. The Bank of Thailand, at the same time, asked the Thai Foreign Exchange Club to play more role in helping traders to diversify their currencies.

The Exchange Equalization Fund yesterday fixed the initial spot rate at 28.27 baht per dollar, the lowest since the Thai currency was devalued from 23 to 27 baht per dollar on November 5.

The dollar soared above 3.40 West German marks in early European trading yesterday and looked likely to establish itself at this level in the absence of central bank intervention. Other currencies also suffered. Sterling, the French franc and the Italian lire were all at historic lows and the Swiss franc at its lowest for a decade.

Yesterday marked a 15 stang depreciation for the baht against the US dollar. The Bank of Thailand also insisted that it will not intervene in the market though forward premium now reaches 26-27 stang per dollar per month, or 52-54 stang for two months.

Director of the International Department, Ekamol Kiriwatana, said central bank officials have been holding consultations with the Thai FOREX for it to have more role in helping clients of commercial banks in foreign exchange trading, whereby exporters and importers can diversify currencies in their international transactions. The suggested currencies include yen, German mark and Swiss franc.

"Diversification can reduce currency risks," said Ekamol, who pointed out that in his 10-year experience in foreign exchange work, he has never seen the continuing strength of the

US dollar.

Foreign dealers said the market was little concerned about the possibility of central bank intervention. The Bundesbank remained absent last week from the open market and remarks by US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker and President Reagan have further reduced the prospect that the US will intervene substantially.

They pointed out that the market is too large for the central banks and they cannot do anything to change the dollar's rate.

Ekamol said that nothing can be done in the Thai foreign exchange market now that the baht is floating with a basket of currencies following the November devaluation.

"We will have to think a lot, if the baht plunges to 29 per dollar, about the impact. On the contrary, we have to be prepared if the dollar nosedives quickly after reaching its peak. Money markets will be considerably chaotic," Ekamol said.

He pointed out that with the country's international reserves at US\$2,600-2,700 million the government cannot do anything.

Sources said that the central bank is looking at a scenario when the baht plummets to 29 per dollar as there will be adverse effects on imports of petroleum in terms of the country's spending. About 30 per cent of energy is imported. Imports of Japan, which account for 30 per cent of the total trade, will not see much adverse effects because the baht-yen exchange rate is relatively stable.

Thai Farmers Bank Executive Vice President Narong Sri Sa-an said it was difficult to predict the trend of the dollar. He also agreed that intervention is not possible and it would not help shore up the baht value.

CSO: 4200/681

THAILAND

PRIME MINISTER APPROVES NFC LOAN

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 12 Mar 85 p 17

[Text]

PRIME Minister Prem Tinsulanonda has approved a proposal for Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand to borrow US\$86 million loan from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan, under guarantee from the Finance Ministry, for National Fertilizer Corp Ltd to carry out its multi-million baht chemical fertilizer project.

Deputy Industry Minister Dr Chirayu Israngkun Na Ayuthaya confirmed a *Nation* report yesterday that the IFCT will be the borrower of the OECF loan — a move which enables NFC to have access to the loan because the fertilizer company cannot directly tap the loan itself without a Thai government guarantee.

Dr Chirayu said that the proposal was worked out by the steering committee chaired by Finance Minister Sommai Hoontrakool last week, following an instruction of the Eastern Seaboard Development Committee to resolve this issue within 10 days after February 28.

Dr Chirayu said that this option is the least complicated. IFCT can take the loan under Finance Ministry's guarantee. "It is better than forming a new entity or state enterprise to tap the loan because it involves legislative process."

IFCT has decided to double its registered capital to 2,000 million baht last week. But it can be responsible for 500 million baht in lending which is equivalent to one-fourth of its capital fund.

IFCT will then arrange a syndicated guarantee by other financial institutions for the remaining 1,900 million so that it can spread the risks involved.

The project requires a total investment of US\$240 million and it is considered viable by various financial institutions.

The steering committee concluded this issue early Thursday and it was proposed to the IFCT Board of Directors later in the day. IFCT, the country's only industrial development financing institution, approved the proposal the same day and made a surprise announcement to double its registered capital.

Dr Chirayu expects no ob-

jection from the OECF because it plans to extend US\$22 million to IFCT for lending to small industries.

He said every party concerned worked swiftly to conclude this issue because the terms and conditions offered by international construction contractors are attractive.

He pointed out that international contracts are going up, particularly for fertilizer plants. Dr Chirayu disclosed that a fertilizer complex under bidding in Indonesia was US\$300 million though the factory is much smaller than that of NFC.

The government will have to cut down its equity holding in NFC from the current 43 per cent. IFCT regulations cannot extend loans to any entity in which government equity holding exceeds one-third.

It has to shed 10 per cent of equity, leaving slightly over 33 per cent, for subscription by the private sector which can be existing partners or newcomers.

A most likely possibility is for the 10 per cent to be offered to foreign financial institutions. Dr Chirayu, however, pointed out that this will be left for NFC to decide.

CSO: 4200/681

THAILAND

INTEREST RATES GO HIGHER

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 13 Mar 85 p 25

[Text]

MAJOR banks plan to announce increases in interest rates soon in the wake of tight money as local borrowers have turned increasingly to baht loans as capital inflow has shrunk significantly.

"What we want to do is to discourage more people from resorting to baht loans, and jacking up interest rates is one way to build a sort of a dam to stop the flow," an executive of the Bangkok Bank told *The Nation* yesterday.

Siam Commercial Bank led the way by jacking up its lending rates beginning Monday. The bank's Minimum Loan Rate went up from 16.5 per cent to 17 per cent while the Minimum Overdraft Rate rose from 16.5 per cent to 17.5 per cent.

The Bangkok Bank, the country's largest, has studied the issue and plans to jack up the lending rates for both MLR and MOR at half a percentage to one percentage point perhaps later this week. "We are looking carefully at the prevailing conditions to time our announcements properly," said another executive.

Other major banks have also been studying the same issue in the wake of the tight money situation.

One banker said: "The fact is demand for money hasn't really gone up all that dramatically. But since most borrowers have resorted to the baht loans as capital inflow has more or less been halted due to the uncertainty over the baht/dollar exchange rate, the businessmen have chosen to minimize their risks by turning more and more to baht loans."

Deposits have also declined in growth rate in the first two months of this year. Banking sources estimated that deposits in the banking system for January and February probably went up by only about 3,000 million baht compared to last year's growth of about 4,000

million baht each month for January and February.

NEW FORWARD MARKET

Bankers have called upon the central bank to develop a new forward market to help ease the problem and to bring about a capital inflow. But the Bank of Thailand has resisted the temptations to step in to play that role.

Another banker said that the central bank's plan to announce an increase of packing credit by 1,500 million baht for exporters this week is not expected to have any significant impact on the tight-money market situation.

"With the forward cover rate rising to 28-29 satang per dollar per month, this means the interest rate is as high as 21-22 per cent. And that's a lot, mind you," said the banker. And as long as the business world believes that the dollar will continue to become stronger, investment and the economy will be stagnant for a while.

As a result, speculation on the baht-dollar exchange rate continues to be widespread. And lending in baht has gone up. One informed source estimated yesterday that the ratio of overdraft facility has gone up from the previous 50-60 per cent to about 75 per cent in the overall banking system at the moment.

The banker confirmed that it has been proposed that three major banks be assigned to offer the daily quotations of foreign exchange rates for buying and selling of seven foreign currencies against the baht instead of the Bank of Thailand. "It's only a reference for other banks to use and by no means official in nature," he said.

However, the Finance Ministry has not accepted the proposal arguing that small banks may stand to lose in such a system. The central bank has received the proposal and is considering the concept.

CSO: 4200/681

THAILAND

SUBSIDIES FOR STATE FIRMS TO BE CUT OFF

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 26 Feb 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] The zero-based 1986 Budget of 218,000 million baht, representing a small 4.31% increase from this year's expenditure, will halt subsidies to most state enterprises except those with no income of their own and public utilities considered vital to the public.

The Council of Economic Ministers debated the proposed new Budget at length during which it was made clear that the austerity expenditure will be kept to a bare minimum based on "absolutely necessary spending" to shore up the country's economic stability and fiscal position.

The Finance Ministry and the Budget Bureau will have the difficult task of curtailing expenses of various ministries whose spending ceilings in the new year will be finalized within April.

Informed sources said that the 218,000 million baht expenditure Budget is based on anticipated actual revenue collection of 183,000 million baht plus an expected deficit of 35,000 million baht. This year's revenue shortfall has been placed at around 16,000 million baht, the sources said.

The new Budget is up by about 5,000 million baht compared to the current year's 213,000 million baht, plus increases in salaries for government officials and debt service for government borrowings (not including debt repayment for state enterprises which are not covered in the normal budgeting procedure anyway).

"In a way, the 5,000 million baht increase will not be sufficient to meet the natural growth. That means it will eat into the normal budgetary expenditure. This in turn means cutting down on a large number of activities including certain development projects," said the sources.

Details of the cuts in budget spending will be negotiated with various ministries concerned and the Budget Bureau will have to tackle the matter with a fine-toothed comb. "It's going to be a tough task to handle for the Budget Bureau," one informed source said.

The Eastern Seaboard Development Committee, chaired by Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, for example, will meet on Thursday to decide revising and slowing down certain projects to cut down on next year's spending. The Mab Ta Put Port has been cited as one possible victim of the budgetary cuts. Other schemes in the massive development plans will also be reviewed under the new austerity scheme.

Certain sensitive spending items have also been mentioned as possible "dispensables" for the new year. The fund set aside for each MP's proposed development projects for his or her constituency, at 2.5 million baht each, may also come under the axe. Another likely victim is the government's job-creation scheme funding.

The government has already instructed government agencies concerned to get rid of about 4,000 million baht from the current year's expenditure Budget.

Subsidies for the new fiscal year, due to begin on October 1, 1985, will be confined to only state enterprises which do not have their own income. They include the Sports Promotion Organization of Thailand, Tourism Authority of Thailand, Science and Technology Research Institute of Thailand and Science and Technology Education Promotion Institute as well as those which are directly related to vital public services.

"State enterprises of other types must seek self-help in the form of austerity programmes, boosting of efficiency, increasing of fees and joint ventures with the private sector," said Government Spokesman Trairong Suwanankhiri.

To achieve the revenue collection targets, the government will unveil a wide-ranging tax package very soon to ensure that the targets set for the new year will be attained.

CSO: 4200/681

THAILAND

SOYBEAN MEAL IMPORT REGULATIONS EASED

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 19 Feb 85 p 25

[Text]

THE Commerce Ministry will soon relax its regulations for animal feed mills whereby they can place bank guarantee replacing other references against permission for imports of soybean meal from abroad, a senior official said yesterday.

Deputy Director General Sompol Kiatphaibul of the Department of Foreign Trade said, at the same time, that pig and poultry raisers have sought permission from Minister Kosol Krairiksh to import a total of 100,000 tons of soybean meal.

The relaxation was decided during a meeting last week. Under existing regulations, animal feed mills seeking permission to import soybean meal have to show evidence that they also bought the same product from the domestic market.

The references include receipts or delivery receipts issued by vegetable oil extraction plants which supply soybean meal to feed producers.

The feed mills, during the meeting, complained that the process took 2-3 months before they can import the raw material. They suggest that they should be allowed to show bank guarantee or domestic letter of credit against import permission.

CSO: 4200/681

THAILAND

BARITE PRODUCERS SEEK GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 19 Feb 85 p 19

[Text]

BARITE mining firms have sought assistance from the government in seeking export markets, particularly in the United States where China is becoming a formidable competitor. At the same time, they want higher domestic consumption of barite in the petroleum exploration sector.

The Council of Mines and barite producers recently submitted a letter to the Industry Ministry, seeking urgent help in locating export markets.

They want the government to hold talks with the US for that country to buy more barite from Thailand. Last year, the US bought 40,000 tons of barite from Thailand, a sharp decline compared to as high as 100,000 tons in earlier years.

Well-informed sources said that the US has turned to buy more barite from China. US ships transport cargo to China and load barite on their return trips.

"The council and barite exporters want the government to hold talks at governmental level. The US market is big and accounts for 30 per cent of Thai barite exports," the sources said.

They want the government to seek markets in Eastern Europe and transactions can be either under countertrade or barter agreements. They suggest that there is demand for barite among Middle East country because the mineral is needed in petroleum exploration and drilling.

The council wants exports to Indonesia, which does not have much barite, but a lot of petroleum production activities. Exports of grounded barite face stiff resistance in Indonesia and Malaysia because they want to import in lump condition.

PRICE DROPPED

The two countries have barite crushing facilities and refuse to buy grounded barite, the council said.

The selling price of barite has already dropped from US\$41 per ton earlier to only US\$35 for lump condition. The decline was due to slump in oil demand worldwide.

Barite miners want local petroleum exploration activities to consume more barite than the present level. It was found that domestic consumption is only 2,000 tons per month.

At present, only Union Oil Company of Thailand and Thai Shell Exploration and Production Co Ltd are using barite in petroleum ventures.

They want the Industry Ministry to collect royalties on barite based on actual selling prices which vary according to each grade.

The authorities, the sources said, use the highest price of barite to fix royalty and high-grade barite accounts for relatively small percentage and the present royalties do not represent the average level. At present, barite in lump condition is subject to seven per cent while crushed barite pays two per cent.

Last year, exports of barite in lump condition amounted to 160,000 tons while crushed barite amounted to 18,000 tons. Domestic stock is 140,000 tons while monthly production is 60,000 tons.

Many barite mines have to cut down production. The number of barite mines was 49 in September last year, employing 1,600 workers. Royalty in the first nine months of last year amounted to 8.4 million baht while production amounted to 115,708 tons valued at 104.2 million baht.

Exports during the first nine months of last year amounted to 78,299 tons valued 63.8 million baht for lump condition while grounded barite reached 17,083 tons worth 33.8 million baht.

Meanwhile, feldspar mining firms have complained about unfair royalty collection. They said that the government charges the same rate for both lumpy and grounded feldspar while mining firms are facing higher production costs.

They want the Department of Mineral Resources to have different rates of royalties for lumpy and grounded feldspar.

Production during the first nine months of last year was 52,400 tons but exports were only 6,200 tons.

THAILAND

TINPLATE IMPORT CONTROL REVIEWED

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 19 Feb 85 p 25

[Text]

FOLLOWING the growing complaints from several firms over an import control on tinplate, the Commerce Ministry will next Monday ask the council of economic ministers to review the issue, a senior official said yesterday.

The council and the Cabinet in late November approved the import control as proposed by the Industry Ministry which wants to have tinplate of standard quality in the country.

The Cabinet also instructed the ministry to closely monitor domestic prices of tinplates so that they do not climb up from the present level and become burdensome for producers of canned food for exports.

The Industry Ministry was also instructed to draft standard specification and quality for cans used for food packaging.

Deputy Director General Sompol Kiatphaibul said yesterday that after the ban was imposed, there were several complaints saying that the control was impractical.

The control has hampered imports of quality tinplates. Sompol said that importers faced further delay because the Customs Department wants to have quality analysis, leading to higher import costs.

"As a result, we want the council to review the control," he said.

Industry Minister Ob Vasuratna also insisted last month that tinplate import control must be main-

tained to prevent the entry of low-quality products and protect consumer interest.

He said that low-quality tinplate, rejected in producing countries, were imported in large quantities.

Importers are required to provide details on the country of origin, quality, the purpose of imports. Minister Ob also said the use of tinplates will be permitted in canning tea leaves and biscuits, but not seafood, pineapple, fermented vegetables, pickles or water-packed food because of the danger of food poisoning.

Tinplate imports in 1981 amounted to 62,422 tons valued at 790.5 million baht and in 1982 the quantity dropped to 41,358 tons valued at 536 million baht. In 1983, the quantity and value were 59,718 tons and 913.7 million baht respectively.

The annual import volumes were high compared to domestic production. Thai Tinplate Manufacturing Co Ltd, the only producer whose production capacity is 150,000 tons a year, could only produce 78,838 tons in 1981; 63,248 tons in 1982; 73,108 tons in 1983 and 69,821 tons during the first nine months of last year.

JUTE EXPORT PREMIUM

Sompol disclosed that the council yesterday approved a ministry proposal to change the method of collection of export premium on jute products.

He said the Thai Jute Mill Association has already delivered 50 million baht, equivalent to the export premium sought by the government, to the ministry.

CSO: 4200/681

THAILAND

SODA ASH PROJECT DELAYED FURTHER

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 28 Feb 85 p 19

[Text]

THE multi-million baht ASEAN rock salt-soda ash project faces further delay when the Council of Economic Ministers Monday instructed officials concerned to have a complete review within a month after hearing the Board of Investment's contention that the scheme is not feasible for it to grant promotional privileges.

Well-informed sources told *The Nation* that the review will be on technical aspects in rock salt mining, supply of ash and viability of the scheme.

The council spent much time in debating the issue following numerous reviews by working groups, committees and consulting firms which are still different in their opinions.

The Finance Ministry and the National Economic and Social Development Board share the same view that the project is not viable but the only support comes from the Industry Ministry and private firms participating in the venture.

The Industry Ministry is unhappy over a possibility that this ASEAN industrial joint venture, which Thailand is the promoter might eventually be

killed. Minister Ob Vasuratna once declared that he would replace the project with a joint venture in fishing in the Andaman Sea.

Council members also raised a problem in rock salt mining due to underground flooding. Rock salt will be supplied from a pilot potash project now financed by the World Bank in Bumnet Narong District of Chalyaphum Province. Supporters of the project, including officials of ASEAN Soda Ash Co Ltd, reaffirmed that the underground flooding or gas pressure could be solved through vertical-shaft mining.

They also assured the meeting that there is no natural gas in the area, and that the excavation will be relatively shallow. However, the council suggested that more technical data should be presented for a clearer picture.

Another issue raised at the meeting involves ash supply. There were doubts whether natural ash and that supplied by the soda ash complex are comparable. They pointed out that natural ash excavated could be used while ash from the project has to come through complicated processing.

The council wants to be clear about the selling prices

of imported and locally-produced soda ash, the sources said.

The meeting decided that ASEAN Soda Ash, the Department of Mineral Resources, NESDB and other parties concerned to jointly review the project and file a final report within 30 days.

A proposal of the Industry Ministry suggested to the meeting that feasibility study conducted by West German consulting firm Kali und Salz AG confirms that the project will be viable if annual production of soda ash is cut to 300,000 tons from 360,000 tons of rock salt.

The firm earlier recommended annual production of 600,000 tons of rock salt. But the revised study pointed out that the scaled-down production offers the highest rate of return on investment.

It was found that rock salt in Maha Sarakam Province has 98 per cent purity, 231-241 metres underground. It is estimated that there are more than 100 million tons of rock salt which can last at least 25 years.

If 600,000 tons of rock salt are needed and 360,000 tons are supplied to the soda ash complex, total production must be at least 750,000 tons because 150,000 tons will be of low quality and left unused, while 240,000 tons have to be supplied to private users.

The study shows that production of 300,000 tons of soda ash will yield net return on investment at 14.31 per cent and 23.84 per cent net return on equity.

The company also allayed a fear that there will be supply of ammonium chloride up to 300,000 tons a year and the quantity may compete with the National Fertilizer Corp Ltd by pointing out that Thai Central Chemical Co Ltd will buy up to 200,000 tons.

At the same time, further development can be achieved in fertilizers for rice, maize, sugarcane and jute because ammonium chloride contains 25 per cent nitrogen.

The substance can also be exported to China and sold to National Fertilizer Corp which wants to produce compound fertilizer.

The Industry Ministry suggested to the meeting that if a final decision to go ahead with the project cannot be made, a loan application should be submitted to Japan which will send a team to evaluate the scheme whether it is viable or not.

The ministry also insists that Thailand's dignity and honour lies with the project because it is the host country.

Thailand holds 60 per cent of equity in the venture, leaving 13 per cent each for Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines while Singapore holds the remaining one per cent.

Total investment in the project, to be sited on the Eastern Seaboard, is US\$279 million, of which 70 per cent of capital requirement will be fulfilled by borrowings and 30 per cent by equity.

The ministry pointed out that the project will provide employment opportunities in the Northeast and at the complex, leading to the establishment of new residential communities. The launching of the project is better than leaving natural resources untapped.

THAILAND

MOVE TO STABILIZE TUNGSTEN PRICE

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 13 Mar 85 p 25

[Text]

THAILAND has submitted a proposal to the working party of tungsten producing-exporting countries to set up a secretariat which may lead to a programme of market stabilization and halt declining prices for tungsten ore.

The proposal was submitted to the Second Meeting of the Working Party of the Tungsten Producing-Exporting countries which began yesterday at the Hyatt Central Plaza Hotel and was presided over by Deputy Industry Minister Wongse Polnikorn.

Wongse told representatives from Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Peru, Portugal, France and Zaire that tungsten ore remains one of the most important mineral export commodities for Thailand in terms of foreign exchange earnings.

The Thai Government, he said, has always considered it essential to assure the continuity of its production, and stabilize its market prices, particularly in the present economic situation. It is believed that the current undesirable situation may result in a shortage of supply.

Director General of the Department of Mineral Resources Sivavong Changkasiri told reporters that he particularly welcomes representatives from the People's Republic of China to the meeting as observers. China is currently the largest producer of tungsten ore followed by Brazil and Bolivia.

He said that Thailand is proposing to the working party the establishment of a secretariat for tungsten producing and exporting countries here to solve the problem of declining ore prices due to low world consumption.

According to Michael Maby of the Primary Tungsten Association (PTA), a private industrial body, prices of wolframite and white ore have dropped by half to about \$74-78 and \$79-82 per metric ton respectively from a average price of about \$140 recorded during 1980-1.

He told *The Nation* that the PTA was set up about 10 years ago to act as a pressure group against tungsten dumping on the market. Thailand, which was

previously one of 14 members, withdrew from the association for budgetary reasons.

Maby explained that the declining prices for tungsten are partly caused by excess production but can largely be attributed to a big reduction in demand. About 50 per cent of tungsten output is utilized in the petroleum drilling industry which is going through a slump due to a decline in world oil prices.

He noted that consumption of tungsten in the steel industry has also declined significantly, but in production of weaponry, he guesses that consumption remains stable.

World production of tungsten is estimated at around 43,000 tons annually of which up to a third is supplied by China. The estimated level of production by Thailand is about 600 tons. The world's biggest consumer of the mineral is believed to be the Soviet Union at about 8,500 tons annually.

Maby said that tungsten is traded in US dollars and he expressed hope that its eventual decline will help push up prices for the ore.

THAILAND

VIET, KHMER REFUGEE SMUGGLING RACKET IN TRAT

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 4 Feb 85 pp 1, 2

[Article by Naowarat Suksamran]

[Text] **TRAT** — Local authorities have discovered a racket involving the smuggling of Vietnamese and Kampuchean refugees by sea from Kampuchea's Koh Kong.

Chief police superintendent, Police Col Somchai Podapon, told *The Nation* in an exclusive interview here over the weekend that a crackdown was being planned to put a stop to the "highly dangerous smuggling of refugees some of whom may be Vietnamese spies trying to sneak into our country."

He said that the clampdown might be difficult "since we have only one marine police patrol boat and one provincial police patrol boat to cover a seacoast of about 160 kms in Trat province alone."

Most of the Vietnamese and Khmer refugees smuggled in from Kampuchea were dropped off at Laem Hin and Laem Sok in Amphoe Muang and Khao Larn in Klong Yai. "The refugees testified to us that they paid 2,000 baht each to be smuggled in by the gang," local authorities said.

Police records here show that a total of 696 smuggled refugees were caught here last year. In January this year alone, a total

of 28 have been arrested for illegal entry.

Local senior officials said that the "refugee smuggling" ring here has been in operation since 1983. "At first, the Vietnamese refugees paid their way here in gold, in the form of either bulions or ornaments.

And each trip would

have earned the smuggling ring at least 100,000 baht," a senior official here said.

Members of the smuggling gang approached their "potential customers" mostly in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), and Phnom Penh. They would then be sneaked out to Kampong Som port where they are picked up by trawlers to be drop-

ped off the shores of Trat province.

"Some Koh Kong people who have been given Thai citizenship acted as the prime movers behind the racket. Others are waiting for their citizenship papers. And these people know the route very well," the officials said.

In certain cases, the refugees, after landing in Trat, were picked up by minibuses which delivered them to downtown Trat. "Before local authorities could learn

about it, the Vietnamese and Kampuchean smuggled refugees would have mingled with the local population. Some of them might have carried out espionage activities against Thailand," the officials added.

Another official who has been working on the problem said that the Vietnamese refugees were smuggled in usually in groups of 15-20 members, where at least one member is capable of speaking English.

"From our interrogations, it was confirmed that a woman in her 30s known by the name of Jihai or Jiba was the main contact, certified by some reliable sources in Saigon. The refugees then sneaked out of Saigon to Phnom Penh where the money was paid. They were then taken to Kampong Som to be put aboard a trawler which would drop them off the Trat coastline. Most of

them wanted to go to third countries after sneaking into Thailand," the officials said.

They said that some ringleaders sell consumer products on the way to Koh Kong in Kampuchea while other more adventurous ones might go as far as certain Vietnamese ports to sell their goods. "Other trawler operators traded goods offshore. On their way back, some of them took Vietnamese or Kampuchean refugees," they said.

The illegal trade involving goods and refugees had brought with it some serious criminal cases and certain violent mid-sea shoot-outs, due to business doublecrossing or betrayals, the officials said.

CSO: 4200/681

THAILAND

LOCALLY MADE MISSILE

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 1 Mar 85 p 5

[Article by Peerapim Buntrawong]

[Text]

A THAI scientist who has designed the first Thai guided missile said yesterday that the military is interested in his "E-An" short-range and highly portable missile equipped with a heat-seeking warhead homing in on a target via a radar guidance system.

Dr Suthi Aksornkitt, dean of the Faculty of Engineering, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology (North Bangkok campus), said that he had been approached by the military and asked to display the latest model of his guided missiles which he claimed to be superior to the French-made Exocet missile in certain respects.

He said that his E-An surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles were put to test most recently on Feb 7 at the weapon-testing ground of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) in Prachuab Khiri Khan.

The senior military officers who witnessed the test firing were army, navy and air force officers, according to the dean who did not identify the officers.

Dr Suthi said that he and a team of 15 students on the campus started experiments on the first model of the guided missiles in 1977 and finished work on the prototype three years later.

The missile was first displayed at a fair organized by the National Research Council on December 4, 1980. The first official test firing was conducted on May 6, 1981, according to the scientist-lecturer.

He said that he had developed three different types of the "E-An" missiles, code-named "JVT-1". The latest model is the most sophisticated and equipped with a heat-seeking plate on the head.

Dr Suthi explained that with the heat-seeker homing in on a portable radar guidance system contained in an attache case, the missile will detonate at the radar site and will automatically go after the target if this is mobile.

Each seeker-head could be adjusted to any frequency bandwidth used by a radar control system, according to the lecturer.

According to Dr Suthi, the latest model is so sophisticated that it could be used against a target on the other side of a hill.

To destroy the target, a soldier carrying the portable radar control system will have to go up the hill to locate the target and then detonate the missile by remote control, he said.

"The missile will fly over the hill and zero in on the target," he said.

Dr Suthi said that the missile could hit a target about three to four kms away and could penetrate a steel plate 15 inches thick.

It was designed to specifically put a tank out of action.

Designed specially for Asian troops, the missile is as light as 10 kgs and only about one metre long. A soldier could carry two E-An missiles at a time, he said.

He said that the three sections of such a missile — the head, the body and the tail — could be easily assembled or taken apart even on a battleground.

Dr Suthi claimed that his E-An missile is essentially on a par with the renowned French-made Exocets and in fact is superior to the foreign-made missile in that it can be fired at any temperature while the Exocet had been designed for use in cold weather only.

"You see, they have to keep Exocet in a freezing cold com-

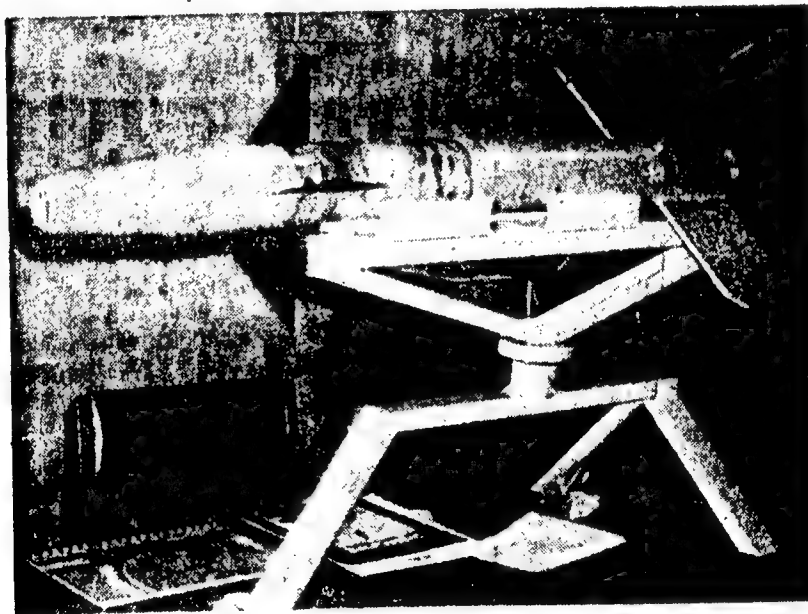
partment before they fire it," he said.

All the more important was the fact that the E-An is made of materials which could be produced here and the cost of production is as cheap as 30,000 baht each, he claimed.

Dr Suthi said that the foreign company which manufactures Exocet missiles had earlier asked to observe his missiles and some "foreign companies" had also offered him a job.

"But I rejected the offers. I am not going to live anywhere outside Thailand. I want to see my inventions used in our armed forces to help bridge the wide gap of trade deficits of our country," he said.

He said that the National Research Council granted him a fund for the research to make the missiles, but that money made up a minimal part of the overall cost.



THAILAND

BRIEFS

LAO SOLDIERS SEIZE POLICEMEN--Mukdahan--Three Thai policemen have been captured by Laotian troops while searching for a missing villager in the Mekong River, police said. The three policemen were identified as Sgt Sunthon Charoewuthimakon and Pvts Raman Khamrucha and Sombun Khamwiso. The three were travelling in a long-tail boat near the town district on Thursday afternoon when they were taken away by Laotian troops, police said. The policemen had been assigned to look for a villager, Nopphon Ninsaeng, 15, who reportedly went missing on Wednesday. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 23 Mar 85 p 32 BK]

FANTRAINERS SOLD TO SRI LANKA--The Royal Thai Air Force, or RTAF, is to sell five of its Fantrainer planes to Sri Lanka. Director of RTAF's aeronautical engineering, Air Marshal Wichit Chotchuang, says Sri Lanka has already approached RTAF for the purchase of such planes. He says a Sri Lankan mission is expected to be sent here soon to observe the production of the Thai-built planes. At present, the RTAF is capable of producing two kinds of planes for its own use--the RTAF-5 planes, which are totally designed by the Royal Thai Air Force for use in aviation training, and the Fantrainer, designed by Germany and is now under joint production between the Royal Thai Force and the German company. A total of 47 Fantrainers will be built under the Thai-German joint contract signed in 1982. Air Marshal Wichit says Thailand also holds the right to sell the planes to other member countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 24 Mar 85 BK]

FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES INDIA VISIT--Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila left India yesterday after a 4-day visit with an accomplishment in clarifying some important points regarding the Kampuchean conflict and strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. The outcome of talks with Indian Secretary of Foreign Affairs Romesh Bhandari centered on regional conflicts in South Asia, the Middle East, Kampuchea and both countries' role in the United Nations Security Council was fruitful as Mr Bhandari showed that India gained more understanding of the situation in the region. As a result, the two countries decided to exchange senior level officials on a yearly basis to continue the dialogue on problems of mutual concern. Regarding Thai-Indian cooperation in the field of trade, India welcomes joint ventures in deep sea fishing between private sectors. India also agreed in principle to allow the Thai International Airways to fly on a new route from New Delhi to Europe. Besides, the convention on the avoidance of double taxation was signed, including the prevention of tax evasion on incomes accruing to either country. Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila and his party are now in Britain, the second stop of their 4-nation tour which also includes France and Portugal. [Text] [Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 25 Mar 85 BK]

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

ARMY PAPER ON POLITICAL SECURITY, PUBLIC ORDER

BK231235 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 25 Feb 85 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Maintaining Political Security--an Important Task of the Militia and Self-Defense Forces"]

[Text] Firm political security and strong national defense are criteria guaranteeing success for our people's socialist construction.

Over the past years, although the reactionary group in the Beijing ruling circle in collusion with U.S. imperialists and other reactionary forces have intensified their sabotage activities, our country's political security and public order have been firmly maintained; our people's socialist construction has developed consistently. However, despite their defeat, our wicked and perfidious enemies, have persistently accelerated the multifaceted war of sabotage against our country. Undermining our political security and public order in the prime target of their sabotage activities.

Maintaining political security is the responsibility of our entire people, the people's armed forces, and the people's public security force. The militia and self-defense units--the large forces with members working in almost all organizations, enterprises, and schools--are responsible for maintaining public order, especially in localities and grass-roots establishments.

Experience drawn from various localities over the past years showed that success in maintaining security and public order can be achieved only through close coordination between the armed forces and paramilitary forces of localities. In these localities, the militia and self-defense units play a key role in the people's security teams and self-administered cells. Localities in the border areas of Ha Tuyen, Kien Giang and Quang Ninh Provinces have established and strengthened the people's security teams. The militia and self-defense units have coordinated with the border defense force in patrolling and guarding the border areas, closely controlling the people, households, and criminals, thereby firmly maintaining security and order.

However, in many places, the militia and self-defense units have not satisfactorily developed their key role in maintaining security and coordinating with other people's armed forces. Some places were in short of coordination plans; while the others which formulated coordination programs, did not have

sufficient drilling. As a result, in case of urgent tasks, the deployment of these units was carried out slowly and confusedly, thus we must rely on the border defense force, the local army, and the people's public security force.

The enemies are undermining us in various fields. To defeat them, the militia and self-defense units must formulate plans to oppose them in many aspects, closely coordinate with the people's public security force, the border defense force, the local army, and the main military units stationed in the regions. The militia and self-defense units--the armed forces of localities--must actively cope with the enemies by satisfactorily carry out inspection work, discovering and promptly eliminating all acts detrimental to the security and public order. The enemies have always sought to carry out their wicked schemes to undermine us in the densely populated areas and the economic, political, cultural, and industrial centers. Members and organization of the militia and self-defense units at these places must be firmly consolidated and strengthened. Training must be carried out extensively to improve their professional skills. In important areas, the coordination between the militia and self-defense units must be firm and in harmony with self-defense forces of factories, enterprises, wards and villages. This must be combined into an interrelated combat position to firmly maintaining security and order.

Foiling all the enemy schemes and stopping and eliminating all social vices and dishonest people are regular tasks in maintaining security and order. This task must be carried out satisfactorily at localities and grass-roots establishments. To achieve this, the militia and self-defense units must be best organized, satisfactorily educated in political background, sufficiently trained in military activities and professional skills, and are assigned with concrete tasks.

CSO: 4209/306

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

SONG BE YOUTHS HELP MAINTAIN SECURITY, ORDER

BK260327 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1300 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Song Be has established more than 3,700 people's security teams mostly composed of youths in the province. The youth union and local establishments have coordinated with the public security force in establishing red flag teams and assault youth security units to guard and maintain order in the streets and protect production and property of the state and people.

Through the assistance of the assault youth security force, the public security force recently conducted many inspection drives, discovering and confiscating 1,500 cassettes and records and many publications with unhealthy content. The public security force also confiscated a number of stolen weapons and tens of thousands of telephone wires.

Thanks to positive activities carried out by the assault youth security force, various negative phenomena in the province have been reduced remarkably, serious criminal cases reduced by more than 50 percent, and many social vices eliminated.

CSO: 4200/708

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

HOANG VAN THAI PRESENTS ARMY CORPS AWARD

BK271058 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] On the morning of 26 March, Tay Nguyen army corps held a ceremony to mark its 10th founding anniversary and to receive the first class military service order awarded by [words indistinct] on the occasion of the VPA's 40th founding anniversary. Delegated by the Council of State, Senior General Hoang Van Thai, party Central Committee member and vice defense minister, solemnly pinned the first class military service order on the flag of the army corps. On behalf of Defense Minister Van Tien Dung and the Military Council of the Defense Ministry, Senior General Hoang Van Thai enthusiastically cited the shining armed exploits scored by the army corps cadres and combatants in the past 10 years of combat, construction, and growth.

The army corps has outstandingly fulfilled its duty as a regular mobile unit and has built its very glorious traditions of determination to win, creativity, solidarity, unity, scrupulousness, and self-support. It has been awarded two Ho Chi Minh orders by the party and state and has been cited as an heroic army corps. It also received the Angkor order, the highest award of the Cambodian state, from the KPRP and the PRK's Council of State.

CSO: 4200/706

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

BRIEFS

YOUTH 'SHOCK FORCE'--Nearly 1 million young men and women in Ho Chi Minh City have really become a shock force in all fields and activities: industry, agriculture, security, and defense. Soon after the liberation of the city in 1975, young labor volunteer teams were set up to clear bombs and mines, reclaimed wasteland, and introduce short-term rice varieties. The youths also take the lead in applying advanced techniques in agricultural production. The movement of scientific research in service of production and life has also developed in all colleges and vocational secondary schools in the city. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 85 BK]

CSO: 4200/692

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN ON SINO-U.S. 'COLLUSION'

BK251612 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 2 Mar 85 p 4

[Commentary by Duy Duc: "The Sino-U.S. Anti-Vietnam Chorus"]

[Text] Despite strong criticism by world public opinion, the Beijing ruling circles still continue to cause tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border. In recent days, Chinese troops fired nearly 40,000 artillery rounds into Vietnamese territory, successively perpetrating crimes in almost all 6 border provinces from Lai Chau to Quang Ninh. The Chinese side also sent commandos and scouts to engage in sabotage activities inside Vietnamese territory and many aircraft and warships to carry out provocations in Vietnamese airspace and territorial waters. Along with threatening to "retaliate" and "punish" Vietnam, China is deploying a large force--comprising scores of infantry, artillery, and armored divisions--together with many air force units close to the border in preparation for a new military adventure against the SRV.

At that time, Wolfowitz, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, made a trip to Beijing. A meeting described as "cordial" to discuss the situation in Indochina was then held between Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian and this high-ranking official of the U.S. State Department. The meeting between Wu Xueqian and Wolfowitz was, in fact, aimed at discussing new schemes and closer Sino-American coordination against Vietnam and the other Indochinese countries.

It should be pointed out that to prevent itself from being isolated politically and from being condemned alone by world public opinion, it is imperative for Beijing to draw the imperialist and reactionary forces, especially the United States, into participation in the gamble against Vietnam and the other Indochinese countries. Although the United States has pretended to advocate a "neutral" stand, realities show that this country has colluded with China in its acts of military adventurism against Vietnam. According to the Voice of America radio station (on 28 February), after 3 days of discussion with Chinese officials, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Wolfowitz declared that the strained relationship between China and Vietnam is but "China's and Vietnam's own business, that the United States is not in a position to express its views on this issue, and that it has not idea whatsoever concerning a military act against Vietnam that could be carried out by China." However, behind these ambiguous words, the United States has actually colluded with China in continuing to support the exiled Khmer reactionary forces against the PRK and Vietnam.

Beijing's collusion with Washington in discussing and devising schemes against Vietnam and the other Indochinese countries at a time when tension is rife on the Sino-Vietnamese border has prompted our people and armed forces to become even more vigilant. We are determined to frustrate all schemes and acts of opposition and sabotage against Vietnam and the other Indochinese countries by Beijing and Washington so as to firmly defend our country's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and fulfill our international obligations to the fraternal peoples of Laos and Kampuchea.

CSO: 4209/306

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

EDITORIAL STRESSES NEW DEVELOPMENT IN FOREIGN RELATIONS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 31 Jan 85 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Effects of New-Style Relations "]

[Text] Thirty-five years ago, in 1950, almost at the same time we established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union our country also set up diplomatic relations with a series of other countries: China (18 January), Korea (31 January), Czechoslovakia (2 February), German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Romania (3 February), Poland (4 February), Bulgaria (8 February) and Albania (11 February). In subsequent years diplomatic relations were also established between our country and these fraternal countries: Mongolia, Cuba, Lao People's Democratic Republic and People's Republic of Kampuchea.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between our country and the Soviet Union and socialist countries 35 years ago was a development of great significance that marked an important victory of our country's revolution and a sign of the growing strength of the socialist system that appeared after the great victory over the fascists. That development strongly encouraged our people in our struggle for independence and freedom and in the defense and construction of the new regime and affirmed and heightened the position of our country in the international arena.

Under the clear-sighted and correct leadership of our party, our people have been carrying on our revolutionary undertaking with a combined strength, the strength of the entire nation combined with that of the era, in which an important factor is the international solidarity. We have always attached importance to strengthening the international solidarity, for we had a profound understanding that it would be a factor of our victory. The realities have shown that the victories in our revolutionary undertaking could not be separated from the international support and assistance, first of all the support and assistance of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

In the last 3.5 decades, our people, along with the people of the fraternal socialist countries, were building and developing the new-style friendship and cooperation relations among nations based on Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism. Our common efforts served the interests of each and every country and the common undertaking. On our part, our people received from the socialist countries strong support and precious and effective assistance. We forever remember the profound sentiments and timely assistance of the fraternal countries and the images that have been engraved in our heart of the gallant citizens of many fraternal countries who had shared the hardships with us during the bitter days of the resistance against aggression and had contributed blood and sweat to the defense and construction of our country. The works the fraternal countries have been building for our people, the increasing exchange of goods among our countries and the training of our cadres by the fraternal countries are creating favorable conditions for our people to build the economy and to develop the culture of our country. We are glad that in the present stage many fraternal countries along with us are bringing a new development to bilateral and multilateral cooperation by extending its scope and improving its quality. The friendship and cooperation treaties and the long-term economic and scientific and technical agreements that our country and a number of fraternal socialist countries have signed in the last few years are the lively signs of the new development in the relations among our countries.

Celebrating the 35th anniversary of the establishment of our country's diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and a number of other socialist countries, our people express our true gratitude toward the support and assistance that the parties, governments and people of the Soviet Union, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Bulgaria and Albania have been giving to our party, government and people in our revolutionary undertaking in the past, as well as in the construction and defense of our socialist fatherland today.

As to the Vietnam-China relations that have worsened to a serious level now, it is the Chinese rulers who have caused such a situation which is against the interests and aspirations of the people of the two countries. We always advocate restoring the friendship and normal relations between Vietnam and China.

1985 marks the 40th anniversary of the victory in the fight against the fascists and also the 40th anniversary of the creation of the world socialist system. Our people wish the people of the fraternal socialist countries new success in the task of strengthening socialism and maintaining peace. We are doing our very best to consolidate and develop the relations between our country and the

fraternal countries on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, to successfully fulfill our two strategic tasks, to contribute to strengthening the power and position of the socialist community and to actively contribute to the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress throughout the world.

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CSO: 4209/253

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

CPV GREETES HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

OW251019 Hanoi VNA in English 0805 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, 24 March--The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam has sent a message of greetings to the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Central Committee on the occasion of its 13th Congress.

The message says:

The 13th Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (HSWP) takes place at a time when the entire party and people of Hungary are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the country's liberation from fascism, the great historical event that ushered in the era of socialist and communist construction in Hungary.

Over the past 40 years, the brave, talented and creative Hungarian people, under the leadership of the HSWP which closely unites with the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, have recorded considerable achievements of historical significance, thus building Hungary into a country with modern industry and agriculture, advanced technology, a constant improvement of the people's material and cultural life, and an ever higher international prestige and position.

In recent years, in spite of difficulties arising from the process of economic development in depth, and from the tense international situation created by the imperialists, the Hungarian people have striven tirelessly to overcome all trials, success fully implementing the tasks set at the 12th Party Congress.

Today in the Hungarian people's republic, the people's power has been constantly consolidated, the socialist democratic system has been ensured and widened, the political life has become stable, national unity has been promoted, the people are united and confident in the party's leadership. These are firm guarantees for all successes of the Hungarian people in national construction at present as well as in the future.

The Vietnamese communists and people rejoice at the Hungarian people's brilliant achievements. We firmly believe that your current party congress will create new motive forces that give a strong impetus to economic and social development in Hungary.

We sincerely wish the Hungarian people, under the leadership of the HSWP, vanguard of the working class headed by esteemed Comrade Janos Kadar, new and greater achievements in materializing the 12th Party Congress resolution in order to successfully build a developed socialist society in Hungary, thus contributing to developing the socialist community's strength and to the common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress."

The message further says:

We are glad to note that the friendly relations and militant solidarity between the two parties and peoples of Vietnam and Hungary, overcoming the trials of time, are fruitfully developing. The Vietnamese communists and people highly appreciate and forever remember the valuable support and assistance of the Hungarian party, government and people to our past anti-U.S. resistance war and our present national construction and defence.

We deeply believe that in the new stage, the friendship and allround cooperation between the Vietnamese and Hungarian parties and peoples, based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, will further consolidate and develop in keeping with the interests of the two peoples and the socialist community, contributing to the success of socialism and communism on the world scale.

CSO: 4200/692

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

PHAM VAN DONG GREETES AAPSO CONFERENCE IN LIBYA

OW250941 Hanoi VNA in English 0815 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, 24 March--Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham van Dong today extends his warm greetings to the 14th Conference of the AAPSO presidium held in Benghazi town of the Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriyah from 25-29 March.

In his message, Chairman Pham van Dong says this conference is of important significance and highly appreciates the AAPSO's activities over the past 30 years and its positive contributions to the Asian and African peoples' struggle for national liberation and independence, against imperialism, colonialism old and new, Zionism, apartheid, expansionism and hegemonism, and other international reactionary forces.

He strongly condemned U.S.-led imperialism and international reaction for going ahead with the arms race and their policies of aggression, intervention and violation of national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of nations, as well as their wicked designs and moves aimed at dividing the revolutionary forces.

"The Vietnamese people" the message stresses "highly value the AAPSO's activities and pledge to stand shoulder to shoulder with other Asian and African nations as well as progressive humankind in the common struggle for the noble objectives of our time: peace, national independence, democracy and social progress."

Chairman Pham van Dong expresses heartfelt thanks to the AAPSO, other nations, and freedom, peace and justice-loving peoples throughout the world for their valuable support and assistance to Vietnam's anti-U.S. struggle in the past and to its national construction and defence at present.

CSO: 4200/692

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

BRIEFS

BANGLADESH NATIONAL DAY--Hanoi, VNA, 25 March--President of the State Council Truong Chinh today sent a message of greetings to President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the occasion of the 14th National Day of the republic (25 March). President Truong Chinh, in his message, expressed his wishes for the constant development of the friendship between Bangladesh and Vietnam, for the happiness and prosperity of the Bangladesh people, and for the good health of President H. M. Ershad. Also on this occasion, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach extended his greetings to Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury. [Name as received] [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1602 GMT 25 Mar 85 OW]

LAO CONTROL COMMISSION--Hanoi, VNA, 26 March--Delegation of the Control Commission of the Lao people's revolutionary party Central Committee and the state inspectorate of the Lao People's Democratic Republic led by Maychantane Sengmany, secretary of the LPRP CC, and chairman of both the commission and inspectorate, arrived here yesterday on a visit to Vietnam. It was welcomed by Tran Kien, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and chairman of its Control Commission; Tran Quoc Huong, member of the CPV CC and vice-chairman of the state inspectorate of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Tran Huu Dac, member of the CPV CC and vice-chairman of its Control Commission; and others. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1552 GMT 26 Mar 85 OW]

COMMENDATION MEETING--Hanoi, VNA, 26 March--Councillor Khamphong Manivong of the Lao Embassy here, acting on behalf of the Lao Government, has presented the Itasala Order, first and second class, the Friendship Order and medals to three units and 85 individuals of the Vietnamese Ministry of Water Conservancy for their assistance to Laos. Present at a ceremony held recently by the Vietnamese Ministry of Water Conservancy to receive the Lao distinctions were representatives of the Lao Embassy and the Vietnam Committee for Economic and Cultural Cooperation with Laos and Kampuchea. Speaking at the ceremony, Nguyen Canh Dinh, alternate member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and minister of water conservancy, and Khamphong Manivong, praised the solidarity and the special cooperative relationship between the two countries as well as the two water conservancy services, and expressed their wishes for further cooperation between Laos and Vietnam in this field. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1532 GMT 26 Mar 85 OW]

CEREMONY FOR LENIN MONUMENT--Hanoi, VNA, 26 March--A solemn ceremony was held here today to start the construction of the Lenin Monument at the Chiling Garden in Hanoi. Present on the occasion were Tran Tan, alternate member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, deputy secretary of the Hanoi Party Committee and vice chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee, Tran van Tuan, active secretary of the Hanoi Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Committee and representatives of the CPV Central Committee's International Department, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association, the Ministry for Construction, the Soviet Embassy and public offices. Speaking at the ceremony, Tran Tan and V. D. Gibin, representative of the Soviet Embassy, brought out the significance of the erecting in Hanoi of the monument to V. I. Lenin. The statue of Lenin will be made in bronze, five metres high, and placed on a 2.7-metre high marble base in the middle of the garden. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1541 GMT 26 Mar 85 OW]

NEW ZEALAND ENVOY MEETING--Hanoi VNA 27 Mar--Raymond Leslie Jermyn, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of New Zealand to Vietnam, today paid a farewell visit to Vice President of the State Council Le Thanh Nghi. Vice President Le Thanh Nghi had a cordial talk with the ambassador. The New Zealand ambassador left here later today, concluding his term of office in Vietnam. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 27 Mar 85]

AWARDS FOR USSR EDUCATORS--Hanoi VNA 27 Mar--The Vietnamese medal "For The Young Generation" was conferred on 10 leading officials of the Soviet Commission for International Students at a ceremony in Moscow Tuesday on the 54th anniversary of the founding of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union (26 March). The presentation was made by Vietnamese Ambassador Dinh Ngo Liem on behalf of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee. The ambassador thanked the Soviet Commission for its devoted assistance in the training of cadres for the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 27 Mar 85]

SRV LEADERS GREET GREEK COUNTERPARTS--Hanoi VNA 27 Mar--President of the Council of State Truong Chinh and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong have extended warm greetings to acting president Yiannis Alevras [spelling of name as received] and Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou on the 164th National Day of the Republic of Greece. The Vietnamese leaders, in their separate messages wished the friendship between Vietnam and Greece constant development. Also on this occasion, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has sent a message of greetings to his Greek counterpart, Ioannis Kharalambopoulos. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 27 Mar 85]

UN AMBASSADOR CONDEMNS 'STAR WARS'--Vietnamese Ambassador to the United Nations Le Kim Chung condemned the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative of the United States. Speaking to the Judiciary Subcommittee of the UN Commission for Using Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes on Monday, Ambassador Le Kim Chung said: This is only a scheme aimed at realizing the U.S. dream of gaining military superiority in the world and pushing the arms race to a new scale. The ambassador stressed Vietnam's full support for the proposal of the Czechoslovak and Soviet delegates on ways to use outer space for peaceful purposes. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Mar 85]

SRV, USSR SIGN AGREEMENT--Hanoi VNA March 28--An agreement on cultural cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union for 1985 was signed in Moscow on March 26. Under this plan, "cultural days" will be held in both countries this year. The "Vietnamese cultural days" will be organized in the USSR in May this year with diversified cultural and art activities, including art performances by various Vietnamese troupes in Moscow and other Soviet cities, Vietnamese film screenings, fine art and book exhibitions, etc. Meanwhile, Soviet art will be widely introduced to Vietnamese audience with performances by such troupes as a troop from the Kiev Opera and Ballet Theatre, a puppetry troop from Ryadan. Besides, Soviet artists will help their Vietnamese colleagues put on stage a number of Soviet plays including the "Swan Lake." [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1523 GMT Mar 85]

RELIEF ACTIVITIES EXPANDED--Hanoi VNA March 28--Tens of thousands of mothers and children in Ho Chi Minh City are receiving relief food from PAM under a program of aid to mothers started in the city in April 1984. The recipients are mothers who breast feed their children up to six months of age, or who have not enough milk or gave birth to twins, triplets and underweight babies. Children under 15 years of age suffering from malnutrition also benefit from the program. The program carried out with the close cooperation of the public health service, mass organizations and the city authorities, has obtained satisfactory results. Thousands of children suffering from malnutrition have put on weight. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1724 GMT 28 Mar 85]

TIMBER EXPLOITATION REPORTED--Implementing the agreement on aid and cooperation between Vietnam and Laos, since January 1985 the forestry and foreign trade sectors of our country and Laos have cooperated with each other in exploiting timber for export from the central region of this country. Despite the complex terrain and undeveloped communications of the region, Vietnamese and Lao cadres and workers have closely united and cooperated with one another in overcoming difficulties to quickly stabilize their lives and simultaneously carry out the three tasks--exploitation, road construction, and transportation. As a result, they have been able to constantly increase labor productivity and shorten the turnaround time of vehicles. On 20 March, the first shipment of Laos' export timber left port for its destination in Vietnam. This was a fine result of the special relationship and all-round cooperation between Vietnam and Laos and also a practical achievement in honor of the LPRP's 30th founding anniversary. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1300 GMT 22 Mar 85 BK]

CSO: 4209/306

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

HO CHI MINH CITY RECRUITS MORE PARTY MEMBERS IN 1984

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 31 Jan 85 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Ho Chi Minh City Recruits More Than 5,000 New Party Members"]

[Text] In 1984 the party organization of Ho Chi Minh City recruited more than 5,000 new party members, the highest number since its liberation.

Many basic party organizations were interested in recruiting new members from among workers, women's association and youth union members and science-technology cadres. The number of party members being workers, particularly workers directly involved in production, obviously increased. In industrial enterprises, the workers directly involved in production accounted for 67.5 percent of the total number of newly-recruited party members. They were youth union and trade union members who had typically gone through challenges in productive labor and work, had good qualities and enjoyed the confidence of the masses.

The task of enlarging the party was carried out on a permanent basis. The Municipal CPV Committee also assumed leadership over specific campaigns, such as the "Nguyen Van Cu class party enlargement campaign," to get considerable numbers of new party members, particularly in the vital areas. The distribution-circulation sector recruited more than 500, or twice the number of party members recruited since 1975.

Many party organizations actively trained their members after recruitment in accordance with approved programs. The new party members were maintaining and further developing their pioneering role in the assigned work. Many of them were holding important tasks. The party organizations which had shown changes in their awareness realized the urgent need to enlarge the party; on that basis, they were heightening the roles of responsibility, taking appropriate measures to provide more manpower, time and material means for the job and actively keeping track of and resolving any problems at the basic level. The party committee echelons also issued resolutions and

directives and took steps to draft party enlargement plans aimed at the key areas and locations; many party bases proposed positive programs of action to be carried out under control and heightened the roles of responsibility of unit chiefs and mass organizations (particularly the trade union and youth union chapters) toward the task of building the political force and enlarging the party in individual units. The party organizations knew how to launch the revolutionary mass movement to step up production, to improve the mechanism of economic management and socialist transformation and through it to train the masses to get many outstanding people and thus to have a source of manpower to enlarge the party.

On the basis of last year's experience, the Ho Chi Minh City party organization in 1985 adopts a party enlargement plan calling for getting 50 percent of party members from among workers directly engaged in production.

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CSO: 4209/253

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

HOANG TUNG ADDRESSES PROPAGANDA CONFERENCE

BK241005 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] According to a Voice of Vietnam correspondent report, on 22 March, the Committee in Charge of President Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Management and the Ministry of Culture and Information, authorized by the party Central Committee Secretariat and the Council of Ministers, jointly held the first conference on propaganda and cultural work at the mausoleum.

Comrade Hoang Tung, secretary of the party Central Committee, attended and addressed the conference. Also attending were Comrades Nong Quoc Chan, vice minister of culture; Major General (Luong Soan), acting chairman of the Committee in Charge of President Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Management; and numerous cadres representing the Ministry of Culture, the Department of Propaganda and Training and the Department of Culture and Arts of the party Central Committee, the Culture and Arts Department and the Office of the Council of Ministers, and the Ho Chi Minh Museum.

Maj Gen (Luong Soan) read a report, highlighting the results obtained since 1978 in propaganda and cultural work in the President Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum area. He also pointed out the tasks to be carried out after this conference to ensure that propaganda and cultural work at the mausoleum is constantly improved, has a more practical impact on the process of nationwide socialist construction, and, at the same time, conforms to the motto: Be modern, national, solemn, and simple.

At the conference, representatives of a number of model units such as Hai Hung Province, the Thang Long Bridge Construction United Enterprise, the X-10 Garments Enterprise, and Ba Dinh precinct, reported on the results they had obtained in promoting the education in tradition at the grass-roots level.

CSO: 4209/306

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

LE THANH NGHI PAYS VISIT TO SON LA PROVINCE

BK261223 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Le Thanh Nghi, member of the CPV Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of State, recently visited Son La Province to inspect preparations for the people's councils elections. Comrades Hoang No, member of the CPV Central Committee and secretary of the provincial party committee, Cam Lien, chairman of the people's committee, and many comrades in the standing bodies of the party and people's committees warmly welcomed Comrade Le Thanh Nghi.

The provincial party and people's committees reported on the situation of the socioeconomic management task, preparations for the people's councils election, eighth term 1985-89, and the implementation of state law. Vice Chairman Le Thanh Nghi visited and inspected preparations for the election in Son La City, Mai Son, Yan Chau, and Mot Chau districts, the To Hieu state farm, the Co Hai and Vien Lang agricultural cooperatives, and the Mot Chau joint enterprise and tea factory.

Comrade Le Thanh Nghi conveyed the kind regards of the CPV Central Committee, the Council of State, and the Council of Ministers to Son La Province and warmly commended various echelons of party organization, sectors, people of various nationalities, and combatants of the province for their achievements in the economic, cultural, social, security, and national defense fields. He stressed that the party organization and people of Son La must develop the tradition of patriotism and revolution, strive to fulfill triumphantly the 1985 state plan, and achieve socioeconomic targets set forth by the Fifth CPV Congress, and positively contribute, together with localities throughout the country, to building socialism and defending the fatherland.

Regarding preparation work for the provincial people's councils election, Comrade Le Thanh Nghi urged relevant sectors to carry out propaganda and motivation tasks satisfactorily in order to enable party cadres and members, workers, personnel, combatants, and people in low-lying, central, and highlands areas to understand the law on organization of the people's councils and people's committees. They must regard as an important political activity that everyone exercise his right to collective mastery and elect qualified persons to the people's councils.

Regarding activities of the people's councils, Comrade Le Thanh Nghi stressed that it is necessary to create favorable conditions for various echelons of people's councils to satisfactorily carry out their functions as the state-authorized organizations in localities. Various committees of the people's councils must design concrete measures to accelerate activities between conferences of the people's councils, contribute to drafting proposals for presenting to the people's councils, satisfactorily organize meetings with people, and listen to the people's ideas and aspirations.

Regarding enforcement of the law, Comrade Le Thanh Nghi urged that the province intensify tasks on propagating and disseminating law and said cadres must strictly observe the law, strive to oppose erroneous acts, and protect the people's right to collective mastery. Comrade Le Thanh Nghi visited the revolutionary museum and the Son La prison, where he was detained 40 years ago by the French colonialists. He also visited and met with families of fallen heroes and families who have rendered meritorious services to the revolution.

CSO: 4200/708

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

BRIEFS

PARTY MEMBERSHIP BY YOUTH UNIONISTS--An all-youth union campaign to participate in party building was launched in February 1979 with the aim of motivating youths throughout the country to emulate in training themselves and improving their ethical quality and revolutionary consciousness to become Communist Party members. Through this campaign, the youth union has fostered, selected, and recommended 500,000 outstanding youth unionists for admission to the party, thus satisfying the legitimate aspirations of youths who want to be imbued with and consecrate themselves to the ideals of the party. To date, after 6 years of implementation of the campaign, the youth union has recommended 1.78 million outstanding youth unionists to the party and 423,000 of them have obtained party membership. This figure represents 55 percent of the total number of youth unionists admitted to the party in the 18 years from 1961 to 1978.

It is the armed forces which have developed the number of party members most vigorously. Outstanding youth unionists who have been admitted to the party account for over 85 percent of the total number of new party members. Most of them are from the working class, collective peasantry, socialist intelligentsia, and armed forces. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Mar 85 BK]

CUU LONG YOUTH UNION--Last year, the Cuu Long Provincial Union recommended more than 3,000 outstanding youth unionists for party membership. Some 1,380 of these have been admitted to the party, producing an increase of 27 percent over 1983. Last year, youths in Cuu Long Province also participated in excavating and embanking 3 million cubic meters of dirt for the building of nearly 320 water conservancy projects. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Mar 85]

CSO: 4200/708

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

REGULATIONS UNDER STUDY TO IMPROVE INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 31 Jan 85 p 2

[Article: "Financial Sector Drafts Regulations Aimed at Improving Industrial Management"]

[Text] In order to implement Resolution No 156-HDBT about some problems having to do with improving the management of state-operated industries, the financial sector is actively studying a series of topics related to the state budget to submit to the Council of Ministers for approval and early promulgation of financial-management documents and regulations to create favorable conditions for central and local state-operated economic units. About the question of financial self-support of production installations, the sector has gradually regulated a number of systems and has defined the rights and actual responsibilities of enterprises to be able to use their self-provided capital in technical investment, expansion of production, joint enterprise, economic integration, search for customers to sign production contracts, consumption of products and economic accounting in order to obtain greater results from their capital. Production installations are fully permitted to control their own capital, which does not cease to grow mainly through production expansion funds and depreciation of properties, which after a year's use can be carried over to the following year without paying anything into the state budget. As for the mechanism of capital management in capital construction, the sector is drafting documents to determine sources of capital and the system for capital management and, in coordination with the State Planning Commission and state bank, revising the procedures for transfer of state-issued capital, loan and payment to reduce inconveniences and to increase efficiency in management, control and auditing. Next month the financial sector is issuing regulations to guide the mobilization and management of the use of people's contribution funds in the field of capital construction, to determine the mechanism of distribution and management of capital-construction investment funds in accordance with the motto, "The state and the people work together, the central and local levels work together," and at the same time to guide the management of invested capital in accordance with the self-service formula. Serving the

purpose of renewing and improving enterprise financial management, right in the first month of this year the sector was able to draw up four management subjects covering the following systems: financial receipts (state-operated receipts); profit norms and distribution of profits; depreciation of fixed properties and the portion of basic depreciation left for enterprises; and issuance of loans and management of fluid capital. In addition to the major subjects mentioned above, the sector is completing early the drafting of documents after receiving ideas and suggestions offered by the managing sectors and basic-level units for unified implementation later.

5598

CSO: 4209/253

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND CONSTRUCTION

HAIPHONG HARBOR RECEIVES INDEPENDENCE ORDER

OW270945 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] According to the Voice of Vietnam correspondent's report, Haiphong harbor held a ceremony on 25 March to receive an independence order, third class, awarded by the state for its development efforts over the past 55 years while upholding the tradition of overcoming difficulties, scoring many achievements, and contributing to national construction and defense.

On behalf of the party and the state, Comrade Dong Si Nguyen, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of communication and transportation, conferred the order. He cited the achievements scored by the cadres and dockworkers of the harbor over the past 55 years.

In particular since 1980, Haiphong harbor has stepped up the emulation movement to unload ship cargos quickly, actively coordinated with other services in delivering goods rapidly, and concentrated efforts on unloading equipment and materials expeditiously and safely in the service of the state's key projects. The harbor has systematized the reception and transport of goods; properly conducted the campaign to receive food products, cement, fertilizers, coal, and export goods; coordinated with other friendly units in helping reduce the turnaround time for domestic ships; quickly loaded and unloaded the cargos of foreign ships; and increased the annual labor productivity by 5 to 6 percent.

Haiphong harbor fulfilled its plans for January and February 1985 and achieved an average of nearly 8,000 tons of goods loaded and unloaded per day, thus ensuring fulfillment of the plan for the first quarter.

CSO: 4200/708

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

NHAN DAN MARKS YOUTH UNION ANNIVERSARY

BK271604 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Mar 85

[26 March NHAN DAN editorial: "Youths Go Everywhere, Do All Work, and Lead a Healthy Life"]

[Text] Vietnamese youths are marking the 54th founding anniversary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union [HCMCYU] amid the jubilant atmosphere of our people's commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the completely victorious anti-U.S. war of resistance for national salvation. Our youths, together with the youths of five continents, are also looking forward to welcoming the 12th international students and youths festival to be held soon in Moscow.

The younger Vietnamese generation is composed of sons and daughters of the heroic Vietnamese people who have significantly contributed to our various great victories, thereby brightening up our nation's prestige. Being led, educated, and forged by the CPV, our youths have always heightened their love for the fatherland, socialism, and their spirit for carrying out the lofty international obligation, while struggling bravely and working diligently, thereby appropriately continuing the tradition and undertaking of their elders, taking the lead in all socialist construction programs, and firmly defending the socialist fatherland. Our youths are always the assault, dynamic, and creative forces everywhere: on battlefields at the border area, in enterprises, mines, state farms, oil rigs on the sea, agricultural cooperatives, laboratories, subwards, and hamlets.

Our youths have many good points and have scored many achievements, yet their weak points and shortcomings are still prevailing. Some of our youths have maintained erroneous, out-of-date, and irrational viewpoints. They have cherished illusions about their ideals, their way of life, and socialism, while having only a vague understanding of labor and exploitation, interest and obligation, collective and individual, and lifestyle and standard of living. Revolutionary ethics and the political quality of youths in some localities are diminishing.

There are many factors causing this decline: The enemy's attempt to undermine us in many aspects and lead our youths to a debauched life; the many problems in our economy and people's daily lives; the weak points in the tasks of the

HCMCYU. The main cause, however, is the lack of attention paid to the youths' activities by various echelons of party committees and the administration to the extent that they neglected their leadership role over the youths' activities. Many fathers and older brothers have not set the example for the youths.

Educating and fostering our youths are the prime concerns now of our entire party, people, each family, and all of society. This is a very important task with long-term strategic significance for our nation and revolution. Bringing up, training, and producing a contingent of reliable youths with revolutionary willpower and the ability to continue the revolutionary tradition and undertaking of their elders, and with the quality and capability to lead our nation to prosperity and happiness, are all the most important tasks regarding our nation's destiny. Great president Ho Chi Minh taught us to spare no effort in fostering the younger generation.

Our youths and people must adhere to the ideal of triumphantly fulfilling the two strategic tasks of building socialism and defending the socialist fatherland. They must also carry out international obligation, while heading toward the communist ideal, the highest ideal of the era. Tasks of youths must be designed to disseminate this ideal among our younger generation, promote their confidence in our party, regime, and the nation's great strength; enhance their consciousness in collective mastery, their wish to build a happy life for our people, and their great aspiration to score achievements for the fatherland.

Ideal is basically in close association with labor. We must educate, foster, and turn the younger generation into new men engaging in productive labor, exercising their right to collective mastery, upholding labor as a sacred obligation and a source of life and happiness, and working creatively with discipline and high productivity.

Comrade Le Duan, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, has said: Only by productive labor and only through socialist construction can we gradually establish fine relationships among men and develop comprehensive affection--the lofty and noble quality of the Vietnamese people. Youths must actively engage in technology, improve their knowledge and educational background, and enhance their professional skills. The responsibility and task of each Vietnamese youth at present is to stand ready to go anywhere and do whatever work he is assigned, while leading a healthy life for the socialist fatherland and the people's happiness.

Our youths must be trained to lead a new lifestyle: to know how to maintain the relationship between members of his family, between wife and husband, between colleagues, organizations, and collectives; to know how to properly treat women, the aged, and children and to maintain affection and friendship; and to maintain healthy aesthetic concepts and sound taste in their dressing, movements, conversations, and social contacts. Various echelons of party committees, the administration, the youth union--while they cannot for a minute neglect fostering idealism and political education in the youths--must not underemphasize legitimate economic and cultural interests and various vital and pressing problems of the youths.

It is necessary to provide adequate employment for youths, especially those who have fulfilled military obligations, graduated from schools, and reached working age; to create conditions for youths to receive cultural education and vocational training; and meet their needs for cultural, sports, physical fitness, and healthy recreation activities. These are extremely important tasks that require the attention of all echelons. Efforts must be made to consolidate and build most satisfactorily youth union organizations and teenagers' and children's groups, change their operational methods, and consolidate the youth front in order to draw the youths into the various youth organizations and create a seething and widespread movement for revolutionary actions among the youths while carrying out the two strategic tasks, conducting the three revolutions, and successfully implementing the resolution of the 5th Party Congress and the various resolutions of party Central Committee plenums.

It is necessary to draw the participation of youths into realistic socialist emulation movements without resorting to showy practices or doing it just for form's sake, and into the movement for the defense of the socialist fatherland. The youths must be encouraged to join in the struggle against negativism, the decadent culture, and superstition; to protect social order; to positively participate in the distribution and circulation of goods and in market management; and to maintain order and sanitation in public places.

Let all our youths always live, fight, work, and study in accordance with the example of great Uncle Ho! Under the party's leadership, all state organs, administrative bodies at all levels, mass organizations, all families, and our entire society should wholeheartedly care for and promote youth-related work so as to bring about vigorous changes with a view to training and fostering generations of valiant, intelligent, diligent, honest, and healthy youths worthy of Uncle Ho, the heroic party, and the heroic nation.

CSO: 4200/708

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

BRIEFS

THAI BINH RESETTLERS--As of 15 March, Thai Binh Province had sent 1,600 families comprising 4,300 persons to build various new economic zones. In order to help these people, the province and its subordinate districts have satisfactorily resolved all the policies of benefits for them. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 24 Mar 85]

CSO: 4200/708

AGRICULTURE

VU DINH LIEU ON TIEN GIANG PROVINCE AGRICULTURE

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 27 Feb 85 pp 2, 4

[Article by Vu Dinh Lieu, vice chairman of SRV Council of Ministers:
"Complete the Transformation and Reorganization of Production To Move
Agriculture in Tien Giang Forward"]

[Text] Through the transformation and reorganization of production, Tien Giang Province has not only been able to develop its agricultural production, but it has also succeeded in advancing agriculture gradually to large-scale socialist production.

Transforming and reorganizing production in the economy in general and in agriculture in particular are not at all simple because they are part of the toughest revolutionary struggle to decide on "who will triumph over whom". That is why Tien Giang Province, like other localities, could not avoid difficulties in the initial stage. Furthermore, when selected by the central government as an experimental site for organizing agricultural cooperatives, Tien Giang failed in its initial attempt, thus making the situation more difficult and complex.

Nevertheless, in spite of difficulties in the initial stage, the majority of party committee echelons, local administrative bodies, mass organizations, sections, branches, and party cadres and members of Tien Giang have adopted a firm stand in persistently studying the party's line, viewpoints, and policies on transformation to understand them more thoroughly. Taking into account the local socioeconomic situation, they have invented more creative and suitable work methods, formats, and procedures.

Work Methods Developed by Tien Giang

Tien Giang has paid special attention to land reallocation, while arranging for large numbers of peasants to work initially in production solidarity teams and then in production collectives. Production collectives, once their operation becomes stable, will join with one another in business to continue their advance. This is a very suitable step, which seems to be slow but is actually rapid and steady. Regarding management, the province has studied and applied Directive No 100 of the party Central Committee Secretariat on end-product contracts for labor groups and laborers. This is a management

method compatible with the level of the production force; therefore, it has not only helped consolidate the old production collectives but also encouraged the rapid establishment of new production collectives and cooperatives. In transforming, rearranging, and reorganizing production, Tien Giang has paid attention to state-run production and technical service establishments as well as to both the collectivized and family-based economic sectors and linked the transformation of agriculture with the transformation of industry, trade, and agricultural production cooperatives with marketing, credit, and small industry and handicrafts cooperatives in the rural areas.

Thanks to this, agricultural production has developed comprehensively, including crop cultivation, livestock breeding, and the various branches and trades. As a first step, efforts have been made to combine agriculture with industry, small industry, and handicrafts and production and material supply with the collection, purchase, and distribution of products. Agricultural production has also developed strongly. In 1983, the province annual average rice output reached 68.02 quintals per hectare, with Cai Lay District claiming 105 quintals. Grain procurement has always exceeded the plan norms. In 1983, a total of 196,374 metric tons of paddy were procured, averaging 1,776 kg per cultivated hectare. In 1984, 230,000 metric tons of paddy were procured as compared with the targeted figure of 220,040 metric tons, averaging 1,958 kg per cultivated hectare.

As a result of this, the working peasants' right to collective mastery has been developed, and their living conditions have improved. The appearance of the countryside has changed: Many villages now have a fairly well constructed public health station, maternity home, school, kindergarten, nursery, village office building, and other facilities, and the communications network has been expanded and improved.

All this however, is but an initial success. Organizational formats still remain on a small scale, management is still at a simple level, and work has only been done in rice-growing areas. Consequently, we must strive to work for even greater improvement.

The transformation and rearrangement of the organizational structure and the development of agricultural production in Tien Giang have progressed according to the set programs and plans. Apart from carrying out basic investigation and planning for the first phase, the province has conducted a survey and made plans for setting up various high-yield rice areas, starting with 10,000 hectares of high-yield rice in Cai Lay. The province is joining the central government in conducting a basic survey on the Mekong River Delta for the second phase; proceeding from this, it will review and supplement its general plan, sectorial plans, and the plans of various basic units in every district. On the basis of planning, initial steps have been taken to formulate relatively suitable plans for every basic unit, every district, and the entire province.

In planning, the province has concentrated on using manpower, land, branches, and trades rationally; linking industry and small industry and handicrafts with agriculture; linking production with distribution and circulation;

linking the economy with socioeconomic work, security, and national defense; linking crop cultivation with livestock breeding; linking the state- and collective-run economic sectors with the family-run economic sector, and so forth. But these are very new problems that require much thought and in particular basic investigation and planning to formulate plans at the district level. Such plans must bring into full play all the four sources of capabilities and the right to collective mastery in the process of plan formulation and implementation.

The scientific-technological revolution plays an extremely important and decisive role in transforming and reorganizing production for the purpose of developing it. Thanks to the concern of the province, the material-technical bases have been increased considerably. The area of ricefields serviced by the irrigation and drainage network has doubled or tripled, and more than 40 percent of the ricefield area has been transformed and rearranged to meet the requirements for intensive cultivation, output increase, and multicropping. Scientific-technological advances in the biological field have been broadly applied in crop cultivation and livestock breeding. It is noteworthy that the crop season, crop cultivation, and livestock breeding patterns have been arranged more rationally. More progress has been made in the use of new varieties (crop seed and livestock breeders); insurance coverage has initially been provided for crops and livestock; and organic fertilizer has been used together with chemical fertilizer at the proper time and in accordance with correct methods. Tien Giang has paid attention to broadly applying the experience gained at pilot sites, starting with carrying out basic investigation and planning, and a plan has been made to use technological progress in the planting of 10,000 hectares of high-yield rice in Cai Lay before applying it widely. This is a very wise practice.

Therefore, the province has recorded many achievements in carrying out intensive cultivation, increasing productivity, practicing multicropping, and pushing up the land usage coefficient. It led the entire country in average provincial productivity in 1983 and tops all other Mekong River Delta provinces in the coefficients for land usage (more than 2) and for the use of green and stable manure.

As the province's potential in labor, land, and the various branches and trades still remain fairly strong, the life of the people will certainly become much better if measures are taken to apply simultaneously various technological advances in production.

Strengthening the District Along With Basic Units

As pointed out in the resolution of the 5th Party Congress, "The district must be used as the theater for carrying out agricultural transformation, reorganizing production, improving management, and building the material-technical bases..." and "active efforts must be made to build districts along the line of agriculture-industry, forestry-agriculture-industry, or fishery-agriculture-industry combination...."

Thoroughly understanding the letter and spirit of the resolution, Tien Giang has paid attention to strengthening the district level along with the basic units. Generally speaking, all the districts are making even progress, with Cai Lay and Cai Be noted for their outstanding performance. The districts have conducted basic investigation; carried out planning; and on this basis, devised plans for utilizing labor, land (including sea and forests), and the various branches and trades. At present, the province is coordinating with the program for conducting the second phase of basic investigation in the Mekong River Delta to review and supplement its general plan, sectorial plan, and plan for the basic units. These plans cover economic activities (production, distribution, and circulation) as well as culture, social welfare, security, and national defense. To date, all the districts have finished reviewing their plans, and three districts have had their general plans approved. The important thing is, as pointed out in the resolution of the 5th Party Congress, that "advancing agriculture totally to large-scale socialist production does not mean developing agriculture alone but rather within a structure in which agriculture is closely and correctly combined with industry."

Thoroughly understanding the spirit of this resolution, Tien Giang has advocated the policy of building four model cooperatives in villages; paid attention to linking the production and processing of raw materials; developed trade and jobs in cooperatives and production collectives to redivide labor; and linked agriculture to industry at the grass-roots level in such tasks as milling rice, incubating duck eggs, weaving carpets, repairing engines, manufacturing tools, tailoring, building--including carpentry and masonry--producing construction materials, and so forth. Industry is still very weak in several aspects in comparison to agricultural development.

When establishing plans for districts, the provincial authorities should make them relevant to the provincial, regional, and national plans.

To implement projects and plans, on the one hand, Tien Giang Province has launched a vigorous revolutionary movement of the masses with the guideline "The state and people work together." On the other hand, it is striving to consolidate district organizations in close connection with the primary installations and to conduct basic and advanced cadre training. The state-run service network (tractor stations, farmland irrigation, breed and seed nurseries, vegetation protection stations, veterinary stations, industrial processing system, and circulation and service systems) has been gradually improved. As of December 1984, some 44,250 cadres have received advanced training under the cooperativization movement.

Nevertheless, there still are many problems to be resolved at the district level, especially that of planning along the lines of establishing the agro-industrial economic structure, consolidating organization, training cadres, and dividing labor and responsibility.

Works To Be Continued

Although Tien Giang has scored important achievements in transforming production relations and developing production, this is only the beginning. Since it is a long, fierce struggle, we cannot be satisfied with the results already achieved. Consequently, to score new and even greater steps of progress, we should continue the following works:

1. Consolidate and strengthen the newly established relations of socialist production. First of all, we must control and categorize the existing production collectives and cooperatives to establish plans for consolidating and qualitatively improving them depending on each category. We must attentively review and satisfactorily develop the good experiences of advanced units, consolidate weak and poor units, and advance toward having no such weak and poor units. In consolidating production collectives and agricultural cooperatives, we must firmly grasp and satisfactorily perform the tasks of intensifying collective ownership over the main production means; expanding joint business and integrating production and business to create conditions for satisfactorily exploiting land and redistributing labor; developing trade and jobs; comprehensively developing production; improving management, especially perfecting the system of making product contracts with individual workers; and rearranging and reorganizing the contingent of cadres. Along with consolidating marketing, credit, and handicraft cooperatives from the managerial viewpoint, we should expand business to serve agricultural production and the people's livelihood well.

We must continue the transformation of other types of crops. This transformation must also be carried out under several forms, going from lower to higher levels. Particularly, the transformation of fruit orchards should be studied and carried out on an experimental basis. The results must be reviewed before a conclusion can be reached, and expansion can only come with the approval of the Council of Ministers.

Positive preparations--especially the building of material and technical bases and the training of cadres--must be made to upgrade production collectives to cooperatives on appropriate scales. The upgrading of production collectives to cooperatives must ensure that production and management will be better than it is in production collectives, that capital can be accumulated for the collectives, more contributions can be made to the state, and the people's livelihood can be improved.

2. We should continue to perfect the economic structure of provinces and districts along the lines of comprehensively developing agriculture (cultivation, livestock raising, fishery, forestry); linking the state-run, collective, and family-based economies; gradually advancing agriculture to large-scale socialist production; linking agriculture with industry, distribution, and circulation; and developing trade and jobs in the primary installations, provinces, and districts to create new and higher steps of development.

To be able to carry out this task, we must complete as soon as possible the tasks of capital surveying, zoning, and planning--especially planning for districts and primary installations. At the same time, we must continually reconsider and rearrange the patterns for allocating crops, breeds, trade, and jobs in conformity with the conditions of each locality to ensure the highest results of production and business.

We should promote self-reliance and self-support to accelerate the building of material and technical bases and support the comprehensive development of production. First of all, we must concentrate on perfecting and developing the existing water conservancy projects and build more small and medium irrigation projects. At the same time, we must formulate plans and projects for continually building medium and large irrigation projects for subsequent years. Along with improving the management and repair of existing tractors, we must pay attention to increasing the number of draft animals. Besides securing the supply of chemical fertilizer, we must attentively and vigorously accelerate the movement to produce green and stable manure so as to ensure the fulfillment of 40 to 50 percent of the demand for nitrogenous, phosphorous, and potash fertilizer. We should consolidate and develop the installations which process agricultural and maritime products and should build the infrastructures (drying ground, warehouses, milling facilities...). Scientific and technological innovations, especially biological achievements, should be boldly applied to production and life.

Guidance should be provided to formulate satisfactory plans, beginning with primary units. The formulation of plans, starting with primary units, must ensure the full use of four resources to balance plans positively and firmly and develop production to the highest extent. The potentials in terms of land and labor must be specifically developed. All primary installations must have production plans and expand the production of export goods. Plans should link production with socialist business. Production must be linked to service to be uniform and effective. As an immediate step, guidance must be provided for satisfactorily establishing the 1985 plan as set forth in the party Central Committee's seventh plenum resolution.

3. We should study means to resolve the problem of policies or recommend that the Council of Ministers resolve it, especially the policies of pricing and two-way contracts, marketing and credit cooperatives, transforming orchards... We should perfect the system of economic management at all levels.

4. The party Central Committee's plenum resolution on the building of districts should be implemented well. District building must be linked with the consolidation and perfection of primary installations.

5. We should accelerate the training of all cadres, especially managerial and professional ones, for production collectives and cooperatives. At the same time, we must also pay attention to the basic and advanced training of command, scientific, technical, and professional cadres for villages, districts, and provinces.

The successes and experiences of Tien Giang belong to the whole country. These experiences are all the more valuable to the former Nam Bo provinces where the struggle is being conducted to complete the transformation of agriculture essentially within this year.

Our duty is basically to complete the transformation of agriculture this year. Only by fulfilling this duty can we easily implement the 5-year 1986-90 plan. There is not much time left to do this. Until now, there still are provinces in which the rate of cooperativization is very low-- 36 percent of households and 30 percent of the cultivated area. Each province, therefore, must review and firmly control the situation and establish specific plans so as to concentrate on providing guidance for resolutely implementing by all means the resolutions of the party Central Committee's congress and plenum. We resolve to fulfill our duty. However, we should not perform it in a perfunctory and negligent manner. On this occasion, I solemnly launch the movement of provinces and cities of the former Nam Bo area to learn from and emulate Tien Giang Province to occupy the second and third ranks.

CSO: 4200/708

AGRICULTURE

BRIEFS

INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP--Hanoi VNA Mar 27--The Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture recently held a workshop on "community participation in integrated rural development through community information and planning system" in furtherance of the program of the Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP). Participating in the workshop were representatives of the Council of Ministers, the party Central Committee's Department for Agriculture, and other concerned departments and offices. Representatives of the Duc Giang agricultural cooperative in Hoai Duc District on the outskirts of Hanoi, and the Binh Minh agricultural cooperative in Thanh Oai District, Ha Son Binh Province, which have been chosen as pilot units for the implementation of the program, attended the workshop. The participants welcomed the CIRDAP program, considering it an effective measure to draw up an integrated rural development program from each peasant family and each agricultural production team upward. They unanimously proposed that the Ministry of Agriculture and concerned offices help train cadres for the two pilot cooperatives according to the CIRDAP program. Experiences of these two cooperatives would be summed up and enriched before being popularized. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0709 GMT 27 Mar 85]

HAU GIANG AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION--To date, Hau Giang Province has set up 28 agricultural cooperatives and 5,351 production collectives, absorbing 226,500 peasant families and 243,800 hectares of ricefields--66.86 percent of the number of peasant families and 64.25 percent of the cultivated area--in the province. Hau Giang has also established 223 marketing cooperatives and 184 credit cooperatives in the rural areas. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Mar 85]

CSO: 4200/708

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

BRIEFS

METEOROLOGICAL-HYDROLOGICAL STATIONS--Hanoi, VNA, 25 March--A system of 458 stations for meteorologic and hydrological observation has been built across the country. These include 155 stations of climatic and agricultural meteorology, 14 radiation gauge stations, and 250 hydrologic stations. These stations have effectively contributed to reducing the damage caused by natural disasters as well as providing valuable data for the designing and construction of transport, irrigation and hydro-electric projects, including the 1,900 mw the Hoa Binh Hydro-electric power plant on the Da River and the Thang Long and Chung Duong Bridges in Hanoi. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1519 GMT 25 Mar 85 OW]

CSO: 4200/692

LIGHT INDUSTRY

BRIEFS

CENTRAL PROVINCE INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT--Hanoi VNA 26 Mar--The central Vietnam province of Quang Nam-Danang has posted an annual increase by 25 percent of its output value of industry, small industry and handicrafts, in the 10 years since liberation in 1975. Gross output value of these branches last year reached 3.250 million dong, accounting for 66 percent of the province's total agro-industrial product. As well as quickly restoring the establishments left by the old regime, the province has made substantial investments in the construction of a series of new factories in order to make fuller use of local materials, and increase exports with a view to importing more machines, raw materials and fuel. The province now boasts 60 enterprises of different industries such as mining, engineering, weaving, glass, porcelain and earthenware, and stationery. In 1984, Quang Nam-Danang produced 15 million meters of fiber, a good part of which was for export. The engineering service is able to manufacture parts for rail carriages, diesel motors and weaving looms. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT 26 Mar 85]

CSO: 4209/310

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

BUILDING NEW CULTURE, SOCIALIST PEOPLE URGED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 2 Feb 85 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Marking the 55th Anniversary of the Founding of the Party -- Building the New Culture, the New Socialist People "]

[Text] With a thorough knowledge of the characteristics of our country and the present era, our party has set forth the general line on the socialist revolution, which requires that we develop the working people's collective ownership right and simultaneously carry on three revolutions -- the revolution in connection with production relationships, the scientific and technical revolution and the ideological and cultural revolution, with the middle one being the key revolution. The party has clearly indicated that building the new culture and the new socialist people is the central task of the ideological and cultural revolution in our country today.

With the gradual establishment of the new system and the new economy, obvious achievements have been made in building the new culture and the new socialist people. The political report of the CPV Central Committee at the 5th Party Congress noted: "With the new system, our people have succeeded in getting rid of the shackles that had been binding man for thousands of years; the working people have risen from being hired hands to being the real masters of the country and society and have regained national and human dignities. That was the greatest achievement. But since our society has just entered the period of transition, there still are quite a few negative and unhealthy aspects that exist alongside the new socialist people who are shaping up the new progressive features of man. The struggle between two roads, between the new and the old, the advanced and the backward and the progressive and reactionary in the cultural and ideological field, and in the way of living is taking place on a daily basis and is too complex for us to underestimate."

Building the new culture and the new people is a difficult, lasting and complex process because of the fact that the remnants of the feudal, bourgeois, colonial

and neocolonial thinking remain abundant while the enemy strives to carry on the multifaceted war of destruction, mainly in the ideological and cultural aspect. This building goes from low to high, progresses in steps and is carried out section by section. Even in the present situation, we do have many conditions favorable for building the new culture and the new people without waiting for a higher degree of economic development. While our standard of living is not high yet, we still can build a new culture and the new people who have a fine lifestyle and a civilized and healthy way of living. As the material living conditions remain low, it is even more necessary to step up the ideological and cultural revolution and to build the new socialist people.

The realities have shown that in the localities and production installations where the party committee echelons and administrations at all levels were paying full attention to leadership and guidance in the ideological and cultural revolution, having positive plans for building the new way of living and concentrating their efforts on building exemplary subwards and villages to draw experience from and to widely promote them, the cultural image and spiritual life continued to change in a positive manner and to push back any negative and backward aspects. Many localities, in their efforts to build the district and ward level, paid attention to the cultural works: libraries, museums, clubs, cultural houses, wired-radio networks, movies-showing grounds, stadiums, and so on. In districts, village clusters and villages, there were plans for maintaining regular activities of the cultural mechanisms, creating an atmosphere of lively and healthy cultural activities, making realistic contributions to building the new people and the new way of living and helping to step up the good fulfillment of the socioeconomic plan. In the cultural and artistic field, good works and motion pictures and artistic performances of good quality were widely seen by the masses, encouraged through lively artistic forms the fine and noble spiritual values, provided in-depth teaching of the new morality and the new people, contributed to pushing back the backward and negative aspects and became the people's indispensable food for the mind.

Attention was paid to wiping out the decadent and backward cultural products; the influences of the neocolonial and reactionary culture were reduced to an important extent; the fight against superstition was carried out rather widely along with new regulations about festivities, weddings and funerals -- all have made realistic contributions to building the new way of living, the new culture and the new people in our society.

However, on the ideological-and-cultural-revolution front, the things that remain to be done are great ones. We must clearly recognize the role and great effects of the ideological and cultural revolution within the framework of the socialist revolutionary undertaking of our party and people. We must step up the ideological and cultural revolution and tirelessly struggle for the

creation of the new culture, the new way of living and the new socialist people in the society of our country.

What is extremely important is to teach the party, people and army as a whole the concept of collective ownership; to make it occupy the mind of every person, every family and every revolutionary mass movement; and to build the people who are the collective owners who love labor, respect reason, are compassionate and have enough will power and energy to contribute to the construction and defense of the socialist fatherland. Attach utmost importance to criticizing wrong thoughts, backward way of living and old-fashioned view of life; abolish the habits of small producers; step up the movement to build the new way of living; firmly wipe out the remnants of the reactionary culture; and tightly manage all the cultural products that are circulated in society. The society as a whole must build the collective ownership concept in the ideological and cultural sense; create a beautiful way of life in the relationships among men and between individuals and the collectives; arouse a strong social opinion that relentlessly fights against the negative and backward aspects and any violations of the social interests and socialist properties; and make the new thinking, the new morality, the new way of living and the new people have tremendous vitality to dominate and wipe out all negative and backward aspects. Encourage the masses to launch a widespread movement to take revolutionary action aimed at achieving a new managerial mechanism, fulfilling extremely well the socioeconomic objectives and further increase the forward movement of the national economy. Vigorously teach revolutionary qualities among cadres, party members and youth union members; praise revolutionary heroism, staunchness, self-reliance, simple and healthy way of living, respect for socialist properties and productive and effective labor; and closely combine the interests of society, the collectives and working people, as well as the immediate and long-term interests of the country.

Building the new culture and the new socialist people occupies an extremely important position in entire revolutionary undertaking of our party and people. Realistically celebrating the 55th anniversary of the founding of the party, the party organization echelons, administrations at all levels and revolutionary mass organizations are developing the collective ownership spirit of the working people, stepping up the building of the new culture and the new people and contributing to the construction and defense of the socialist fatherland.

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